

## Carter hope of early Egypt-Israel talks

Egypt and Israel are expected to resume negotiations over Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories within a few weeks, President Carter said yesterday after the agreement worked out by his special envoy, Mr. Spil Linowitz. But in Cairo the agreement was seen as a face-saver for Mr Carter before the American elections.

## Envoy gets agreement from both sides

From David Cross  
Washington, Sept 3  
President Carter said today that he expected Egypt and Israel to resume their negotiations for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories "within the next few weeks". A State Department spokesman explained that this would probably be before the American Presidential election on November 4.

Mr Carter was commenting on the new agreement worked out on the Middle East peace talks by his special envoy for the autonomy negotiations, Mr. Spil Linowitz. The President was addressing union leaders in Washington shortly before leaving for a day of campaigning in Pennsylvania.

Commenting on a statement issued by Mr Linowitz in Egypt, Mr Carter said that both President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, were "deeply committed" to the Camp David peace process.

"They will recommence the negotiations, for peace, some time within the next few weeks and they both approved a reconvening of the summit conference later on this year at an appropriate time that will be convenient for all of us," he added.

A State Department spokesman said that no date had yet been fixed for a resumption of the autonomy talks because the Egyptian and Israeli leaders had not yet had a chance to discuss a mutually convenient time between them. The idea of a summit, originally proposed by President Sadat, had been agreed in principle by the two men "if and when appropriate", the spokesman added. During his talks in Israel and Egypt, Mr Linowitz had discovered that both leaders were "truly concerned" about what the suspension of the autonomy negotiations was doing to the peace process. Today's agreement reflected "their realization that something needed to be done to prevent a deterioration of the peace process".

## Violence in Turkey nearing civil war scale

From Sinan Fisek  
Ankara, Sept 3

The unprecedented rise of political violence in Turkey since the beginning of this month is approaching civil war proportions with the deaths of 76 people in the past three days.

After 11 deaths on Monday and 22 yesterday, independent sources reported 43 deaths during the past 24 hours.

The terrorism seemed to be concentrated in Ankara and Adana, where, respectively, 31 and 34 people have died in the past two days. Istanbul comes a close third.

In Ankara, yesterday's massive demonstrations and the bombings in broad daylight at the headquarters of a right-wing association which left four dead and nine injured brought home the reality of terrorism to many residents of the capital, who so far have largely escaped the daily violence.

While militants of the ultra-leftist "Dev-Yol" (Revolutionary Path) group demonstrated yesterday in Ankara against Mr Raskin, the governor of the Black Sea province of Ordu, he narrowly escaped an attempt on his life.

Mr Akkaya is accused by the left of carrying out pitiless reprisals against the army in the sub-province of Fatsa.

He said today that about 200 rounds had been fired at his car while he was driving from Ordu to Fatsa. Only one bullet hit the car but the driver of the government vehicle was badly wounded in the head by a stray bullet.

As the violence increased, the National Assembly met today to discuss a motion against Mr Raskin.

It was tabled by the Islamic fundamentalist National Salvation Party (NSP), whose spokesman, Mr Recai Kutan, said Mr Raskin's foreign policy had been "against Turkish interests from the very beginning".

Mr Kutan attacked Mr Raskin's failure to sever diplomatic relations with Israel. He said the Government had failed to support the Afghan freedom fighters and did not pay sufficient attention to the plight of Turks in western Thrace, who "are suffering at the hands of the Greeks".

Mr Hikmet Cerit, of the Republican People's Party, the main opposition said his party did not agree with all the points in the censure motion, but he was nevertheless critical of the minister.

Mr Erkmen adopted "a defeatist attitude in relations with the West" ever since the Conservative minority Government of Premier Suleyman Demirel came to power nine months ago, Mr Cerit said.

Mr Erkmen's policy was unrealistic, erroneous and lacking personality, Mr Cerit did not say whether his party would vote against the Minister. The Republican People's Party has already tabled three censure motions against members of the Demirel Government.



Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary: He wants a meeting with the Prime Minister.

## Unions take up Callaghan offer of pay talks

From Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor  
Brighton

Opinion leaders are to take up Mr James Callaghan's invitation to talk about five years of incomes policy under the next Labour government, while steadfastly refusing to accept the Prime Minister's wage restraint programme.

With many Civil Service and professional unions abstaining, a political initiative by the postmen and steelworkers to produce a joint TUC-Labour Party petition was carried by 2,276,000 votes to 3,628,000, a majority of 1,648,000.

Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, whose 2.2 million votes were cast against the resolution, conceded that the vote "opened the door" to the kind of talks on a new social partnership between a Labour Government and the unions sought by Mr Callaghan, when he addressed the conference two days ago.

The TGWU leader discounted the outcome "as a victory" for the Shadow Cabinet but admitted: "The fact is that the vote starts the dialogue, of which we are not afraid. It does not mean we are committed completely to an incomes policy unless that policy is agreeable to a TUC congress in the future."

Talks between the TUC and Labour leaders on the Callaghan initiative are expected to begin in the autumn, shortly after the Labour Party conference in Blackpool.

The resolution, successfully tabled by one spokesman and postmen, categorically rejects any wage freeze or incomes policy from the present Government, and calls on the TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee to work out joint proposals on which the next general election can be fought. Pay, prices, and anti-inflation measures would figure in that manifesto plan.

A second resolution, on collective bargaining, passed overwhelmingly on a show of hands, reaffirmed the TUC commitment to "free collective bargaining and opposition to all forms of wage restraint. Specifically, it is 'implacably opposed' to the threatened 10 per cent pay rise limit for public service workers in the 1980-81 pay round."

It also lays down that the TUC General Council shall not enter into discussions about the possibility of agreement on any policy of pay restraint. But that was heavily qualified by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, who said in opening the economic debate that the general council would try to meet the Prime Minister "in a spirit of openness and honesty" to discuss a plan for national recovery.

He said: "We are prepared to talk to the Government on the basis of a serious and straightforward exchange of views. What needs to be done to get Britain moving?"

TUC leaders accepted the resolutions on the understanding that they did not say the general council was discussing anybody anything at any time on the basis of all the facts and on a determination to pursue policy. "But everything must be on the agenda," said Mr Murray, "with hard evidence that the Government is interested in having a serious and wide-ranging discussion."

That assertion of independence of the TUC policy guidelines passed without challenge, and it will be for the Cabinet to decide whether there is anything to be gained from opening up such a dialogue.

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## When your travel agent gets it wrong

By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs  
Columnist

Travel agents frequently give out misleading information, the magazine Holiday Which? alleges today after anonymously visiting 115 agents to tackle holiday difficulties.

One agent in Rio de Janeiro took out an option on a holiday at a hotel on the island of Roa, 500 miles away. Others, asked for advice about the Bahamas, said it was "dead" or recommended the island of St Lucia. Both Barbados and St Lucia are in the West Indies.

Another agent told the anonymous inquirer: "The Bahamas is like a powder keg; the Government does not encourage tourism," while several said that October, when rain pours down a lot of the time in the Bahamas, would be a good time to go.

Asked for advice about crossing the Atlantic from Italy to Corfu, two agents said it was impossible and two others said the best way would be to drive all the way round to the Greek mainland and get a ferry from there. Another agent suggested taking a ferry from Naples to Piraeus in Greece. In fact, several companies operate ferry services from Brindisi to Corfu. Even agents who did not know the correct route were uncertain how frequently ferries ran, estimates varying from once a day to twice a week.

Most agents, the magazine says, do not know from the assumption that a package holiday would be cheaper than travelling independently. Few made any precise calculations to check that statement.

Five agents innocently said visas would be required for the Bahamas, and one inaccurately stated that a gonorrhoea vaccination was necessary. Several did not know what the local currency was.

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## Chairman Hua names successor

From David Bonavia  
Hong Kong, Sept 3

Mr Hua Guofeng, the Chinese Prime Minister, has confirmed that he will shortly resign the post. At least five influential Deputy Prime Ministers, including Mr Deng Xiaoping, will also resign.

Mr Hua is said to have announced his own and other resignations during a meeting in Peking with Mr Yasuhiro Ohira, the Japanese Prime Minister, to whom he introduced Mr Zhao Ziyang, the man who is to take over from Mr Hua.

Mr Zhao, an experienced provincial administrator who was recently brought into the Communist Party's politburo, is considered a strong supporter of Mr Deng.

The resignations of Mr Hua and Mr Deng from their positions on the State Council will still leave them with senior posts in the Communist Party and the armed forces. Mr Zhao will be named as the new commander-in-chief of the Chinese Army.



Mr Zhao Ziyang: Newcomer to the party's politburo.

Mr Zhao will go on using his vice-chairmanship to formulate the main lines of policy and administration in China. He retains, in addition, an important post in the armed forces command structure.

The other Deputy Prime Ministers whose resignation Mr

Hua confirmed—to be endorsed during the present session of the National People's Congress (parliament) in Peking—are Mr Xu Xiangqian, the Defence Minister, and Mr Li Xiangshan, Mr Chen Yun and Mr Wang Zhen who will now have performed important functions in economic planning and administration.

The main political loser is thought to be Chairman Hua, whose position as Mao Tse-tung's successor has been severely undermined by attacks on Mao's personality cult and on his extreme left-wing policies.

Mr Deng's ideas about the way China should be run—with an authoritative new legal code and extensive liberalisation of economic and cultural life—are nowadays almost unchallenged, and have been formally endorsed by the congress.

The next major political event after the congress is expected to be the trial of Mr Lin Biao, widow and her associates in the so-called "gang of four".

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## Miners' victory brings calm back to Poland

From Dossa Trevisan  
Warsaw, Sept 3

With the settlement of the dispute in the Silésia coalfield, early this morning, Poland is having its first day of labour calm after three weeks of strain.

The miners went on strike in sympathy with the shipyard workers in Gdansk and pressed for the same guarantees for free trade unions. But they also had grievances of their own and obtained concessions on working hours and retirement.

The Government was anxious to settle the dispute because coal is Poland's chief export and the strike could have crippled the economy. The miners have been granted a five-day week, an improvement in safety standards and a reduction in the retirement age from 55 to 50 years. Negotiations went on throughout the night.

The miners concentrated on safety conditions and the need for shorter hours, their chief complaint having been that the existing shift system deprived them of free Sundays and left too little time for maintenance and safety checks.

As elsewhere in Poland, there were emotional scenes when the settlement was reached. Young workers stood around the statue of St Barbara, patron of Polish miners, singing national anthems. Many wore rosettes around their necks, as Mr Lech Walesa, the

leader, yesterday met the party secretaries from all of Poland's 46 regions. During the meeting, Mr Jozef Piskowski, the new Prime Minister, gave an assurance that the accord reached with the miners would apply to all workers.

The Sejm, the Polish Parliament, is to meet within two days to confirm the new government appointments. Already the official press is reflecting a new mood. The Communist Party's daily Trybuna Ludu, is now saying the agreements will strengthen socialist democracy.

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## Peace pact offered to Boulogne fishermen

From Ian Macgregor  
Paris, Sept 3

The fishermen of Boulogne, whose dispute with the French Government has been going on for weeks, are to vote on Friday on a package aimed at getting them back to work quickly.

A growing number of fishermen among the coast are voting to return to work each day, even although the package of Diageo, Le Report, Lorient, and Compagnie de la pêche is still to be decided.

The package for the Boulogne fishermen was thrashed out in the course of 24 hours of tough discussions in Paris between the fleet owners and the two main unions.

It was the third and longest meeting so far of the industry's national conciliation committee, but at the end of it the Communist Party's trade union delegation remained adamantly opposed to the proposed settlement.

Mr Botha wound up the congress yesterday with a savage attack on the alleged sabotage of the party.

Simonstown, a largely English-speaking constituency, where the election is being considered a 1980-81 contest, Mr Botha said, "disappointed the British trade union movement."

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## Britain's air defences to be modernized

Britain's air defences are to be modernized at a cost of £100m, it was announced at Farnborough. Communications and defence systems improved over five years, giving a shorter response time for intercepting enemy fighters. The contract was won by an international consortium including Marconi and Plessey, of Britain. Meanwhile, the United States Air Force displayed a new high-energy laser beam weapon.

Representatives of the Roman Catholic church hierarchy, clergy and laymen from South Africa, Switzerland, Botswana and South-west Africa, at a meeting near Pretoria have called for more black clergy. They also called for "the total liberation of all, who live in southern Africa".

The Federation of Spanish Press Associations is proposing a new press law which in some provisions harks back to the Franco era.

Two men went berserk and punched and kicked a mentally disturbed woman to death in an attempt to exorcise evil spirits, the Central Criminal Court was told. Both deny the manslaughter of Miss Bessie Rutherford, aged 31, a civil servant. The men allegedly told police that Miss Rutherford spoke with the voice of Judas Iscariot.

## Wives work to pay rising school fees

The number of parents sending their children to independent schools is increasing despite inflation and the economic recession, according to headmasters belonging to the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools. In many families, they say, the wife works to pay fees.

Represent



## HOME NEWS

## Men kicked woman to death in attempt at exorcism, court told

A preacher and his friend went berserk and kicked a mentally unstable woman to death as they tried to rid her of Judas Iscariot's evil spirit, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

During the "exorcism" John Sherwood and Anthony Strover punched Miss Beatrice Rutherford, aged 31, unconscious and then kicked and jumped on her stomach, it was alleged.

Mr Strover was said to have told the police that as they tried to chase the devil out of her, Miss Rutherford spoke in a strange voice, claiming to be the spirit of Judas Iscariot.

Mr Sherwood said he himself must have been possessed by the devil during the attack, the court was told.

Mr Sherwood, aged 30, described as an itinerant preacher, of no fixed address, and Mr Strover, aged 25, unemployed, of Wren Lane, Shepherd's Bush, London, deny the manslaughter of Miss Rutherford, a civil servant.

Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, said it was "an extremely unhappy case in which the two defendants kicked Miss Rutherford to death in the course of an attempt to exorcise what they believed to be an evil spirit in her body."

It is not alleged they intended to kill her, but it was the sad result of their misguided and unlawful act that brought about her death.

Mr Tudor Price said that in the past two years of her life Miss Rutherford had suffered from mental instability. For a number of years until 1977 she had lived in Swindon with a Mr Valerie Bort. "There was a very close relationship between them," he said.

At the beginning of 1979 the relationship between the two women broke down, he said. Miss Rutherford then began to attend a Pentecostal Church, also known as John Preacher's, he said.

On the day of Miss Rutherford's death, Mrs Bort went to the flat where Miss Rutherford was staying and was let in by Sherwood. She saw Miss Rutherford in a poor mental state and was crying, Mr Tudor Price said.

Strover was also in the flat. "There appeared to have been some interrogation going on. Mrs Bort was distressed by what she saw and was taken out by Sherwood, who advised her to leave, to read the scriptures," he said.

Later that day Mr Sherwood, Mr Strover and Miss Rutherford attended a prayer meeting at the Pentecostal Church, Edmonton. "That was the last time she was seen alive," Mr Tudor Price said.

The next day both men went to Edmonton police station, where Mr Sherwood said: "I think I've killed a woman trying to get devils out of her."

Mr Tudor Price said Mr Sherwood told the police he had hit Miss Rutherford and kicked her in the stomach and that both men had jumped on her stomach.

Her death was due to a fractured chest, in which six ribs were broken and a liver lacerated, he said. "Her body clearly had been consistently and deliberately kicked and stamped on."

Mr Tudor Price said Mr Sherwood asked at the police station to see the pastor from the Pentecostal Church, and then told him: "I am afraid I have done something terrible. I was trying to cast out the devil. I hoped to rid her soul of the suffering she had been going through. I am not fit to live."

Mr Sherwood had explained to the pastor that "the situation escalated from a gentle rebuke in physical force, not against Miss Rutherford but the devil in her body."

Mr Tudor Price said Mr Strover told the police: "I started with John hitting her. She was thrown on the bed. I told him to hold her legs and started hitting her in the stomach. I seemed to go berserk and just carried on."

The two men had asked her how she felt, and Miss Rutherford replied: "Strange."

Mr Strover had told police: "I did not believe that exorcising a person could hurt them, but just the spirit would be cast out. I trusted John to know what to do."

Mr Tudor Price said that even Mr Strover thought that if they were doing what they were striking the devil, they were striking the devil, they were striking the devil.

The act was such that all sober and reasonable people would have realized they must expose Miss Rutherford to the risk of some harm," he said.

Mrs Valerie Bort, the first witness, said that when she first met Mr Sherwood she thought he was like a Mormon off a bus. "He was very friendly and he was long and he looked just like a preacher such as you see in wagon train serials."

She had seen Miss Rutherford a month before she died, when she seemed well. But on the day Miss Rutherford died, when she had seen her at her flat, she was "not the same person."

Her head was bound, her hair was filthy, and she was wearing wellingtons, jeans, several jumpers, and was huddled on the floor, she said.

Mr Sherwood and Mr Strover sat on two chairs in front of her, side by side. "I got the impression of an interrogation. I said: 'What are you doing to her? You are screwing up her head and she will drive her into a mental home'."

Mrs Bort said that Mr Sherwood then poked a Bible at her. The trial continues today.

## New Liberal strategy aims at full employment

By Our Political Staff

The Liberal Party's economic strategy for the future gave the lie to the Government's propaganda that there was "no alternative" to its monetarist policies, Mr Richard Wright, MP for Colne Valley, said yesterday at the launching of the party's new discussion paper, *Full Employment Without Inflation*.

The Liberal Party alone offered a coherent policy for the future, based on the recognition that the new technological revolution of the world was entering could provide a basis for a more decentralized society, if government seized the opportunities, the paper said.

The paper is the interim report of the party's economic policy working group, chaired by Mr John Birt, MP for Cornwall, North, which looked for a policy for economic, industrial and social development that did not depend on continued economic growth, conserved energy and preserved the environment.

The paper accepts that the world may have entered a prolonged period of economic slow-down and envisages a more decentralized society brought about by new technology.

Given the right provision of telecommunications, an increasing amount of work currently done in the manufacturing sector in large factories can be performed at local work centres or even at home, the paper says.

Liberals will be able to create a decentralized society should press for the urgent implementation of government assistance and control in this field.

Liberals would establish a new deal aimed at getting full employment and conserving raw materials, energy and manufacturing goods.

A national fund to be established with the help of North Sea oil revenue, building up an income of £10,000m a year to fund job creation schemes linked to environmental projects.

Operations would be administered by regional and local authorities and would be run on a more than break-even basis after allowing for subsidies assessed on the basis of cost-benefit analysis.

The national fund or authority should be able to guarantee index-linked borrowing at low real rates of interest which could be used to finance pension funds and insurance companies and help finance large regional or national schemes, such as the Severn barrage.

Private industry and agriculture should receive generous tax relief on similar projects. Individuals should be able to offer any dividends or interest against tax up to an agreed limit.

There was some confusion last night over the original source of the advice that any compromise must either directly involve the TUC or directly involve the terms of its formula.

Mr Baldwin, however, made it clear that he would be making no peace approaches in the foreseeable future, and that his union would not regret even in the face of threatened expulsion from the TUC.

The compromise, an outline of which had begun to emerge in discussions in Brighton over the past few days, apparently envisaged GMWU ladders working on the power station's Unit 3, while the substitute ladders continued for the time being on insulation of Unit 1.

It is believed that that would have been acceptable to the Central Electricity Generating Board, provided the GMWU men accepted the board's required bonus ceiling, earnings of £4.50 an hour.

The development will fill another gap in the borough's riverside frontage. In May a joint development with private enterprise and the British Rail Property Board was opened on a 7-acre site near by.

In the latest development, the North Southwark Community Development Group had appealed against the council's refusal of planning permission for its application to allow housing, a car park and playground on the site.

Mr Norman Ashworth, the inquiry inspector, decided that the site was unsuitable for small-scale family housing.

Mr Bryan Stanley, the union's general secretary, said any industrial action would not be aimed at hurting the customers. This means that action could, for example, be directed towards disrupting the processing of telephone calls.

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"Any breach of the monopoly will be contrary to the best interests of telephone customers and Britain itself, because it will take money out of telecommunications that is badly needed for modernisation and expansion."

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## Headaches declined and alertness rose after office tests

By David Nicholson-Lord

The open-plan offices of a big insurance company were recently subjected to an unusual experiment. For three months about 120 clerks, typists and secretaries were housed in offices with negative air particles.

Charged air particles. For a month, although staff did not know it, the machines producing the bombardment were switched off.

The experiment was the latest in a series of tests conducted by Surrey University into the properties of negative ions, as the particles are known. It confirmed and broadened the picture built up by previous studies, that such particles affect human performance.

The university's "double-blind" trials, for example, have shown that in a negatively ionized office the incidence of headaches fell from a quarter to one-eighth of the normal level.

Complaints of dizziness and nausea were reduced from 5 to less than 1 per cent. Subjective ratings of alertness

showed corresponding increases. Precisely why that should be no one knows. Several theories, including a link with the negative ions' effect on the nervous system, have been suggested.

Dr. Hawkins' group is expanding its trials, effects on productivity are being examined, and the effects of negative ions on the processing of information.

A hundred sufferers from asthma and "bronchitis" are now being kept in a two-year study of the health benefits of negative ions.

Negative ion generators, or ionizers, have been installed in locations as diverse as a London dress factory, the control room of the Essex police, offices of the "Financial Times" insurance company, and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Cheshire, children's homes and the intensive care

unit of a hospital in the West Country. Some 25,000 are thought to be in use in Britain and an estimated fifty doctors regularly recommend them to patients.

Advocates of negative ion therapy acknowledge, however, that it remains fringe medicine. What is accepted is that both negative and positive ions, air particles which have respectively gained or lost an electron, are naturally present in the atmosphere, produced by factors such as wind friction, cosmic radiation, sea radioactivity and waterfalls.

An ion ambience, for instance, has been linked with the stress associated with seasonal "ill-winds" such as the Mediterranean "Föhn" and "Sirocco" winds, and "negative" ions, for example, are said to have helped treat or combat burns, migraine, skin conditions, stress, infection and a range of respiratory illnesses.

In an increasingly polluted atmosphere, these "natural" ions are said to be in short supply.

Since the tests were introduced in 1977, the language tests for the larger number of doctors coming from the Indian sub-continent and elsewhere will continue. In 1979, limited registration was granted for the first time to about 1,400 overseas doctors from outside the EEC and full registration to another 1,814.

The department considers that by amputating that it is going to change the language test to be used to do so by the European Court. It will give health authorities time to introduce effective alternative arrangements to replace the registration-linked requirements.

The British Medical Association, which has made it clear that it thinks the discontinuance of the present arrangements for language tests for EEC doctors is regrettable.

"We had been told that the Government might be forced to abandon language testing, and have asked the Government to ensure that when this happens there should be adequate safeguards for the public."

The Post Office Engineering Union, which has 126,000 members, said yesterday that the break-up of the telecommunications monopoly would damage prospects for modernizing the telephone service and lead to a field of imports.

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## Clerks and typists bombarded with air particles in study of human reactions

By David Nicholson-Lord

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## Crippled councillor appeals against loss of his disability benefit

By Michael Horswell

Social Security investigators have stripped a crippled local councillor of his invalidity benefit because they rule that he is fit for council work.

The case is being investigated by Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Councillor Douglas Greenwood, Labour MP for Ipswich, has been told that he is fit to work.

His weekly income has been dropped by more than £25. Mr Greenwood said yesterday: "The case is enormously important in terms of principle."

Mr Greenwood, who has been in constant pain for more than 20 years and has undergone five major operations, took up local politics after doctors confirmed that it would serve as useful therapy.

"When I was told that I was fit to work, I decided that I would not sit back accepting state handouts and doing nothing to return."

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## HOME NEWS

### British air defences to be modernized in £100m programme

From Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent  
Farnborough

Britain's air defences against attack by enemy fighters and bombers are to be modernized with equipment costing £100m, it was announced at the Farnborough Air Show yesterday.

The money is to be spent over the next five years on improved communications and data systems which will give a shorter response time for intercepting fighters when an incoming enemy is spotted on radar.

Airborne early warning systems, such as the Nimrod aircraft able to see 200 miles beyond the ground horizon will flash warning messages over digital links to computerized ground-control centres as far apart as northern Scotland and southern England.

As defending fighters are "scrambled", controllers all over Britain and in Nato centres in Europe will be able to see the exact battle picture.

The contract was won from Nato by a consortium called UK DC2, formed by the Ministry of Defence, Hughes Aircraft of the United States, and Thomson-CSF of France.

They outbid another consortium formed of companies from the United States, France and Holland.

Mr Emmet Bennett, chief executive officer of UKDC, a company owned by Marconi, Plessey and Hughes, said at Farnborough that the contract would bring work to factories in Chislehurst, Kent, and Addlestone and Liverpool.

It had been won despite fierce international competition. "32 companies were invited to tender."

Ironically, all that new defence technology could be rapidly overtaken by another new weapon on display at Farnborough, a high-energy laser beam being developed by the United States Air Force—classified "death ray" by the media of the *Evening Post* and *Evening Standard*.

The laser gun has moved far beyond the realm of fantasy. Senior USAF officers at the show said yesterday that it had already been tested in a wind tunnel and had shot down an unmanned drone aircraft.

As proof, they produced a piece of titanium, one of the hardest metals in production, with a jagged hole burned through it and the charred nose cone of a Sidewinder missile.

Born had been hit by laser beams during recent tests in a wind tunnel in the United States.

The next stage in the USAF research programme is to mount the laser on an aircraft. Such a machine, a converted KC135, is already flying. It will shortly have a laser beam fixed to it, a baleful, searing eye in a swivelling turret on the top of the fuselage behind the flight deck which will focus on enemy intruders, whether aircraft or missile, and the USAF hopes, blast them out of the sky.

Such aircraft should have the little hope of escape for the laser covers a mile in six milliseconds. There is no need for the operator to lay off his gun to intercept the trajectory of the target. He will simply aim directly at the target, however supermanically it is travelling, and be sure of a direct hit.

This is the first time the Americans have confirmed in public that they are well advanced with "death rays". If the work is successful, it could revolutionize warfare and produce a radical revision of tactics on the part of Russian and other potential enemy air forces.

### Ulster bomb injures four sleeping children

From Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

Four children were injured in a bomb attack on a Roman Catholic family in north Belfast yesterday. Two, aged 12 and eight, sustained serious injuries, while the others, aged nine and seven, were treated for minor injuries.

It was the twentieth attack in recent years on members of the Hillcock family, who live in a mixed Roman Catholic and Protestant area in Oldpark Road.

The bomb was placed on a window ledge outside an upstairs rear bedroom where five of the eight children were asleep. Their father, Mr Brian Hillcock, aged 42, said: "I ran into the room which was full of smoke and flames. The kids were screaming and some of them were on fire. Everything was on fire, the beds, the beds, the carpet. I grabbed them and got them out."

Mr Hillcock said the family had been attacked so often that he had replaced the windows with stronger glass. His son, Noel, aged 17, suffered a broken leg when attacked by youths last January.

The family moved to the house in 1977 having been compelled to leave another area during a period of widespread sectarian violence. Mr Hillcock said they would now have to move again.

Rise minutes after the explosion another bomb placed on a window sill exploded a few hundred yards away in the same road. A middle-aged woman was treated for shock.

Mr Hillcock said the search for Mr. Wallace Allen, the police reserve, by the IRA, continued on both sides of the Irish border yesterday, with an unexplained concentration of the police and Army in a small area in south Armagh.



A visitor admiring blooms yesterday at the Royal National Rose Society's autumn show in London. The show continues today. Results, page 16.

### Measures to ease sale of council homes

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced measures to help people who have bought council homes at a discount and then wish to sell them because they need to move to another area.

The measures are in a new general consent for the disposal of land and houses by local authorities in England, other than under the right-to-buy provisions of the Housing Act.

Explaining the details, Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, said that under previous consents council tenants who bought their homes at a discount were required to offer them back to the council at the original purchase price for up to eight years after the purchase.

"This could represent a significant impediment to purchasers who found they needed to move for employment or other reasons during the eight-year period," he said.

Under the new consent, purchasers will be able to sell their homes at the current market value but they will be required to repay the value of their discount on a sliding scale, diminishing by one-fifth a year during the first five years after the purchase.

Another consent, dealing with the sale of empty houses and flats, will enable a council to sell at a discount to someone who wants to move into its area to work.

The first consent applies to discretionary sales of houses and flats by councils, for example, vacant dwellings or dwellings excluded from the right to buy, our Political Staff writes.

Under the second consent, local authorities can offer a discount of up to 30 per cent on vacant houses and flats to anyone with a firm offer of regular employment in the local authority area in which the house or flat is situated, or in any neighbouring authority, the Minister said.

### Insurance for teachers assaulted by pupils

By Frances Gibb

Teachers are to be protected against assault by pupils in schools and colleges under an insurance scheme announced yesterday by the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association.

The 50,000-member union will provide cover of £35 a week for up to four weeks when an injury leads to absence from school of more than one week.

The association hears of some 300 assaults a year and itself deals with two to three a week, ranging from kicks to fracturing of skulls. Mr Peter Smith, the union's assistant general secretary, said: "Luckily most cases are not very grave."

There were cases, he said, of teachers being hit with metal chairs or being punched against brick walls. One teacher's skull was fractured by two former pupils who had returned to visit the school.

It was not that the number of cases was rising, he said, but that juvenile crime and violence in general were on the increase. "Most football hooligans are of school age, and there is no reason to suppose they behave any better during the week than when on the terraces."

The trouble was made worse because the range of sanctions open to teachers for dealing with disruption in the class had narrowed, and the use of some sanctions came under constant criticism.

Unlike most employers, local authorities and the police were unwilling to help teachers in pursuing prosecutions because of evidence difficulties, and such cases were increasingly left to the union to fight.

A further obstacle was that the courts never awarded damages against a juvenile unless the parents had encouraged or facilitated the assault, for instance, by providing a weapon.

"Obviously that does not happen in 99 out of 100 cases. But if a teacher has had four front teeth knocked out by a pupil, and the pupil is found guilty and put on probation, the teacher still faces the cost of repairing his teeth."

Assaults were made on women teachers as often as on men, he said. "There is no truth in the myths that hooligans are gentlemen at heart, or that girl pupils are basically gentle. A girl's kick can be severe."

This year the union expected to assist between 100 and 150 teachers in prosecutions. Few assaults caused teachers to be absent from work for as much as a week. "But it is no consolation, if you have a fractured skull, to be told that statistically you are the exception."

### Where the jobs are: Signs of decline in a 'boom-town'

#### Demand for skill is falling sharply

By Nicholas Timmins

Slough, stuffed with light industry, with a high street that calls itself the "Golden Mile", with superb communications and the jobs of Heathrow on its doorstep—likes to think of itself as a "boomtown".

Posters in the local Jobcentre proclaim there is a brighter future on the way. But for Slough's 2,862 unemployed, 472 of whom are school-leavers, the words have a certain irony. Even in the prosperous South-east, deepening recession and rising unemployment are being felt.

Not that the case should be overstated. Unemployment is a mere 3.7 per cent, less than half the national average of 8.3 per cent, and only a fraction of the figures for real misfortune such as Hartlepool, with 15.5 per cent, or Strathclyde in Northern Ireland with 27.5 per cent.

In July last year, Slough's unemployed totalled 1,471, with 1,321 registered vacancies, almost one for every person unemployed. Last month the ratio had declined sharply to one to ten, with 280 jobs on the Jobcentre's books for the 2,862 out of work.

Mrs Ros Sutton, the district manager, says there are still jobs more or less across the board, but for an area that in the past has had its share of hard-to-fill vacancies, the difficulty is fast disappearing, and more and more employers are cancelling vacancies that they had previously notified.

"We are finding it easier to fill hard-to-fill vacancies," she says. But as yet it was too early to say whether that was because people's attitudes to unpopular jobs were changing. "It is just that more people are available."

Slough's traditional difficulty is skill shortages, particularly in engineering. They remain, but the numbers are smaller.

Last November, Slough had about 180 skilled jobs to fill; now the number registered is almost an eighth of that figure, the result not of more people taking jobs, but of demand falling sharply, although the local Jobcentre is convinced that once the recession ends the old trouble will return.

The same is true throughout the country. The Engineering Employers' Federation says there has been a rapid reduction in vacancies in all regions, particularly in the Midlands. In recent evidence to the employment select committee, the EEF pointed out that some areas that have had shortages now have a surplus of skilled men.

In Westington, New Town, for example, when vacancies were matched to the actual skills of the unemployed in March, there was a surplus of 93 jobs to 40 vacancies in service engineering occupations where jobs actually existed.

Slough, in past years, has been an importer of labour. In the past year, for example, 81 people moved to Slough with the help of the Government's Employment Transfer Scheme, which can provide financial help for up to a year for people moving to a new area for work. Almost 60 per cent came from Scotland and the North-west, mainly Merseyside, and 51 of them were skilled workers.

For workers looking to move to Slough now, the prospects are less good. Vacancies are down sharply, and housing, the bane of labour mobility, is no easy.

A modern semi-detached house costs between £25,000 and £30,000, compared with less than £20,000 in the North-west or north-east. Unfurnished accommodation is almost nonexistent; furnished accommodation is expensive at £150 to £200 a month for a flat, and council houses, while the rents are comparable to those elsewhere, are hard to get.

The employment services say the waiting time for a job in the area averages three and a half years after five years' residence in the area.

Mrs Sutton says: "If we had local authority housing available, we would have been able to attract more people to the area last year for skilled jobs, and for the vacancies there are at present."

The fact that 68 of the 81 who took jobs under the Employment Transfer Scheme were aged less than 30 suggests that many were single people, able to live in "digs", rather than families. Housing is clearly the key.

Next: Moving the workforce.

### Search starts for unlisted teenage voters

By Our Political Staff

A campaign to find a quarter of a million "missing" teenage voters has been started by the Home Office and the British Youth Council.

Posters and radio and television reminders will be aimed at the estimated 270,000 young people in England and Wales who fail to register on the electoral roll and so lose their vote.

It is directed particularly at those teenagers who will turn 18 during the life of the next register (February 16, 1981, to February 15, 1982), and so make them eligible for their first vote at 18.

Mr Leon Brittan, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, welcoming the campaign, said: "We are anxious to impress upon young people that they themselves can make the effort to ensure that they are entered on the registration form when it is delivered to their household and that they should also check the electors' lists or draft register on display locally to see that they have been included."

By failing to register, many young people are losing the basic democratic right to vote and their first opportunity actively to participate in civic affairs.

Draft copies of the register go on display from November 27 in local council offices, libraries and main post offices. Teenagers not on the list should get in touch with the electoral registration office of their district council or London borough.

### Hormone imbalance found in violent offenders

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

A link between aggression and body chemistry in psychopaths has been discovered by research at Broadmoor Special Hospital.

The discovery could possibly be used in future to help decide whether—and when—a prisoner can safely be released.

The key is the psychopath's hormonal balance. When people feel fear, there is an increase in the level of adrenaline, one of the hormones of the adrenal gland. But the amount of noradrenaline, the other hormone, increases with aggression.

Among psychopaths tested by Dr David Woodman, a biochemist, and Dr John Hinton, a psychologist, 24 per cent had an excess of noradrenaline over adrenaline.

That "hormonally-imbalanced" 24 per cent committed 57 per cent of the incidents convicted of crimes resulting in death.

Describing the research in this week's *New Society*, Dr Woodman says the hormone imbalances appear to have links with social class and personality.

"These findings are particularly interesting when you consider that children from poorer backgrounds have harder living conditions and get more physical punishment," he says. Doctors say: "Studies on aggressive social behaviour caused by parents' discipline suggest that this physical punishment is allied to aggression outside the home."

A person's predisposition to aggression can therefore be changed by his childhood environment—but aggression also relates to whether there is more noradrenaline than adrenaline.

Dr Woodman concludes that there is strong evidence that environment in childhood can alter the basic biochemical processes and bring out the aggressive side of an individual's personality.

### Hospital waiting list figures said to have little meaning

By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Published figures for hospital waiting lists have little meaning, Consumers' Association says in this month's issue of *Which?*, published today.

Figures for the number waiting for in-patient treatment, about 800,000 at present, are popular with politicians but not useful, the magazine says, because they give no indication how long patients have been waiting for treatment.

*Which?* says that if details of the numbers admitted to hospitals within one, six or 12 months of joining waiting lists were published regularly, comparisons could be made between consultants, medical departments, hospitals and areas.

In its own survey *Which?* found that in one household in 20 there was someone on an in-patient waiting list. One in five had been waiting more than a year.

Long waiting times, the association says, are as likely to be caused by administrative difficulties as by lack of resources. It says more booked admissions could help reduce waiting times, since more than one-fifth of offers of vacant beds are not accepted.

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## HOME NEWS

## Independent schools getting more pupils despite spiralling fees

From Richard Ford, Oxford.

More parents are sending children to independent schools and paying ever-rising fees despite high inflation and the economic recession.

Indeed, many headmasters of independent schools believe that the trend is because the economic climate is forcing big cuts in state education.

Many of them are baffled about how parents are finding the money to pay hundreds of pounds a term. Most headmasters accept that in many families the wife works just to pay school fees.

Mr Timothy Bowles, chairman of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, which is in conference at Christ Church, Oxford, said yesterday: "Our biggest problem in independent schools is the continual upward spiral of the fees."

To cope with inflation and to maintain our standards and pay our staff the Burnham scale we are able to put up our fees three times a year if need be.

Up to now parents have been able to pay these increases, but for how much longer? There are signs that many are finding it increasingly difficult. The remarkable thing is that so far the recession does not seem to have had any effect on us.

One of their duties was to keep fees down without endangering the standards that parents paid for. But we ought to be asking ourselves: "Are our high standards becoming too expensive for parents to afford?"

There was great buoyancy in the association, although members were worried about inflation. The number of pupils in their schools this year was a record of 76,869 compared with 33,000 nine years ago.

He rejected criticism that the schools were elitist. "Talk about class is just nonsense. We get children from every background."

One of the debates taking place during the conference is how the independent schools

can share their facilities with the state sector and local community.

In some areas like Bristol and Harrow, such co-operation is well advanced.

Mr Bowles added: "At a local level we should make efforts to get to know the headmasters and teachers of the state schools and show them that we are part of the education system of the country."

In his chairman's address to the conference, Mr Bowles said independent schools should help parents in disciplining their children by setting high standards of conduct. It was an uphill struggle for schools and teachers if the parents did not back them up.

Blaming parents for spoiling their children, Mr Bowles, who is headmaster of Bramcote School, Gamston, Nottinghamshire, said that as a result of parents failing to discipline their children, young people were less obedient and were used to getting away with many things at home.

"Standards of discipline, however, have dropped alarmingly among young people. Schools are always the first to get the blame when children misbehave, and a course often they are at fault. But the influence of the home is paramount."

Parents today, he went on, were not prepared to lay down the law and they over-indulged their children absolutely.

He suggested that boarding schools could help parents of day pupils by telling them what time boarders went to bed.

"It is a powerful weapon, enabling the parents of day pupils to get them to bed at the proper time," Mr Bowles insisted. "The school's influence is reaching into the home."

At his school, where 165 pupils pay £740 a term to board, or £430 as day pupils, Mr Bowles insists that an eight-year-old is in bed with the lights out by 7.15 pm, a 10-year-old by 7.45, and a 11-year-old by 8 pm.

## TUC CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

## Overwhelming vote against pay restraint but Mr Murray keeps open his options on talks

The Congress passed by a large majority, on the basis of a composite motion on collective bargaining, declaring that its general council should not enter any discussions about the possibility of TUC agreement to any policy of pay restraint.

However, Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, had earlier indicated that the council would not regard that or another motion rejecting any wage freeze or incomes policy from the present Government as "with anybody, anything, at any time."

Opening the debate on the economy, Mr Murray said the council was not in a position to make a decision on the subject of pay restraint as it was not a TUC matter. It was a matter for the Government and the employers.

With a few exceptions, but none against, the congress passed a composite resolution rejecting any wage freeze or incomes policy from the present Government as "with anybody, anything, at any time."

The first card vote of confidence was passed by a majority of 1,648,000, a motion moved by Mr Tom Jackson, General Secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers calling for support for the campaign for a show of hands. The last unanimously.

Full employment could be a reality if, but only if, the Government changed course, Mr Murray said. That was the message which the congress was hammering home.

A message of hope to the millions unemployed and a message of warning to the Government. Mr Murray was cheered when he said that the TUC did on May 14: "We were not just demonstrating our revulsion against policies that have put two million people out of work. We were asserting that there is an alternative economic strategy for national recovery. We, not the Government, are the ones who can bring about a decent and humane society where people come before economic dogmas, and where people win the day."

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Reports by John Winder, Bernard Withers and Geoffrey Browning, of our Parliamentary Staff.

During the call in the first composite motion of the day for the TUC general council to be implemented by the next Labour Government. But employment and industrial regeneration could not wait until then.

With members' jobs and welfare at stake, the council was asked to pass a motion to get the Government to change course.

That was why the general council would be asking to see the Prime Minister to express concern about the state of the nation, to impose on her the need for change and the need to seek an agreed plan for industrial recovery.

It was also why the council was asking the Government to think again. The TUC was calling for an increase in real demand in the economy, not a half-hearted dash for the industrial sector.

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lower exchange and incomes policies for the industrial sector, and for containing import penetration, and a positive role for the public sector and the public services.

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Mr Murray Evans, top, Mr William Sirs, left, and Mr Terence Duffy, speaking in the debate on the economy and the industrial position yesterday.

investment. It divided the employed against the unemployed by constant asserting of "public opinion" and by using language in public speeches to create unemployment.

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, said the Government had no mandate for all the damage and suffering it was inflicting on the country. It was a disaster where cooperation was essential.

Mr Jackson moved a composite motion categorically rejecting any wage freeze or incomes policy from the present Government. It recognized the need for a planned economy, and called on the TUC Labour Party, Labour, and the Government to work together to bring about a planned economy.

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income policy to be the single controlling factor in government strategy.

The congress must make up its mind about what sort of society it wanted. The strategy was what they had now, a market-based economy in which the weaker went to the wall.

It should be the responsibility of an empowered state to ensure that the economy was not in a state of inflation, unemployment, and social chaos. It was time to re-examine the basic principles of the economy.

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elements of public opinion is trying to foster the impression that those people in public service and in the public sector generally were really underworked, and secure in employment. The truth was precisely the opposite.

Public expenditure and the purchasing power of public employees was central to the whole economy. If the real purchasing power of the public sector was reduced, that could only mean mass unemployment in the private sector as demand slackened, said Sirs.

The composite motion moved by Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, called on the TUC Council to give practical support and assistance to unions in the campaign for a planned economy.

Supporting the motion, Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, said that the introduction of new technology would lead to the creation of more jobs, but it was essential to ensure that the introduction of jobs and the creation of human misery.

We are not prepared to accept that technological progress should be made at the expense of working people. Now can it be described as progress if the profits of employers are maintained at the expense of the workers, and the introduction of new technology results in the destruction of jobs?

Unions must ensure that the benefits of new technology were returned equitably. A coordinated industrial and social strategy was required at all levels of society, Mr Wade said.

Mr Roy Gantham, general secretary of Association of Technicians, said that when the Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that there was no power to reduce the external value of sterling, they exposed their subservience to the money markets.

The policy of high interest rates and of an overvalued pound destroyed Britain's wealth-producing industries, creating unemployment. There would be more than three million unemployed in two years. A policy was needed for all trade unionists, and for everyone who looked after number one and so many ended up in poverty and a meaningless idle existence.

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## Fears that more people face fuel disconnection

By a Staff Reporter

Rising fuel prices and a tougher approach by electricity boards will lead to growing numbers of poor people being disconnected from supplies this winter in contravention of the agreed code of practice, it was predicted yesterday.

Mr Paul Vestey, chairman of the Right to Fuel campaign, called for powers of disconnection to be taken away from the fuel supply boards and vested in the courts.

Disconnections have risen by a third in the last year, and with electricity price increases outstripping the rise in earnings, unemployment and social security benefits, the trend was likely to worsen.

"The intention of the code was to prevent disconnection wherever possible but it certainly is not doing that any longer," he said. "It is becoming a routine matter for boards to cut off consumers for non-payment of bills, which means that procedures will increasingly be ignored."

Mr Vestey's criticisms follow the disconnection by the London Electricity Board (LEB) earlier this week of Mr Dennis Tuckie, aged 31, of south London, who is blind.

Mr Tuckie had been receiving 130 a week unemployment benefit since losing his job as a telephone operator six months ago. He says he received no final demand and was disconnected without warning from outside his house at 6 am on Tuesday morning. His bill was 36.

Both the Right to Fuel campaign and the Electricity Consumers' Council yesterday described the incident as a clear breach of the code which says the disconnector should first be in touch with a responsible adult inside the household.

The council also called on boards to recognize their social responsibility by introducing a system to identify blind people who might be involved in billing disputes.

Disconnections in the London area have nearly tripled this year in an attempt by the LEB to reduce its £10m debt, have recently been the subject of dispute between the board and consumer representatives.

The board denied a breach of the code and said that as it had the right to disconnect, Mr Tuckie was blind, he would be reconnected immediately.

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## Tourism could help jobless, councils told

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspond



## WEST EUROPE

## France bans neo-Nazi extremists and tightens entry rules

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Sept. 3

The French Cabinet decided today to break up the Fédération d'Action Nationale et Européenne (FANE), the extreme rightist neo-Nazi group.

Fane is known to have been in contact with Signor Marco Affatigato, the Italian right-wing politician who was arrested in Nice after the bomb attack on Bologna railway station in July in which 37 people died and has been charged with theft and forgery. His extradition hearing is due on Friday.

Paul-Louis Durand, the young French police inspector suspended early last month in connection with his right-wing activities, is one of Fane's leaders.

M. Thibaut, the president of the Larvatière Community of Nice, said in a radio interview today that 67 prominent Jews living in the Alpes-Maritimes had received death threats or abusive anonymous calls in recent months. He alleged that Fane was involved in the calls and that Jewish organisations were "convinced" the threats could be carried out by his ministry.

The Cabinet decision was taken after a report by M. Christian Bonnet, the Minister of the Interior, on the group's activities. The decision was based on a law of 1935 which proscribes "groups and private armies" which provoke armed demonstrations in the streets and which "promote racial discrimination, hatred or violence to any person or group of people because of their origin."

A subsequent law of 1972 sets out fines of up to 300,000 francs (€30,000) and prison sentences of up to a year for provoking discrimination, hatred or violence. The leader of Fane, M. Marc Frédéricksen, is to be tried on September 19 for publishing in the group's magazine, articles which are alleged to have incited racial hatred.

M. Frédéricksen, who is 44 and a bank employee, founded the group in 1966. He claims to have 60 militant members in Paris and a further 200 in the provinces. He admits having been in contact with Signor Affatigato.

In an interview last month, M. Frédéricksen claimed that the "neo-Nazi" movement had caused a few deaths, a million at the most. Of the gas used in the camps he said: "It was a powerful insecticide to disinfect clothes."

He appeared to be delighted by the publicity caused by his movement. "For us, it is the best," he said. "It is the means to make ourselves known. What is regrettable is that it comes as the result of attacks which we have not committed."

M. Fane has, however, in the past six months, claimed responsibility for a bombing at the office of the French and Soviet organisations, the Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples, and for breaking up the offices in the Champs-Élysées of the Sovietist Aeroflot.

M. Bonnet said only a fortnight ago that he was sceptical about the usefulness of enforcing a dissolution of the group. He said, in a radio interview that the organisation had been under attack by his ministry well before it had attracted press publicity and that he believed a closure would be useful only in that it would provide "a satisfaction for public opinion."

Fane is the fourth extreme rightist group which has been officially dissolved in France since 1958 and M. Frédéricksen is a former member of one of them. Since May 1968, a total of 18 extreme rightist groups and five militant autonomist movements have also been dissolved.

The Government also announced today that it would reinforce border controls to stop the entry into France of foreigners who could become a menace to public order or "conduct work as an illegal immigrant."

Anyone stopped entering France with false papers or illegally carrying a weapon will be deported with no chance of appeal.

M. Bonnet said that France was giving shelter to 105,000 political refugees and 200,000 asylum seekers, breaking its traditional role of a land of asylum.



Franz Josef Strauss, face darkened by coal dust, after visiting a mine in the Ruhr district yesterday.

## Soupcon of hostility clears table

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, Sept. 3

The West German election campaign hit a new low today when a dinner for the country's 12 interior ministers had to be cancelled after Herr Gerold Tauder, the Bavarian minister, asked his Christian Democrat colleagues not to sit at the same table as Herr Gerhard Baum, the Free Democratic Federal Minister.

Herr Baum recently took part in a public debate with Herr Horst Mahler, a former member of the Bader-Meinhold terrorist group who has repeated and on being released from jail, returned to normal life.

Earlier in the day the Social Democratic Party, not without a certain touch of self-righteousness, invited the press to see an election propaganda film produced by the opposition Christian Social Union.

Entitled *The End of a Legend*, its declared purpose was to destroy the myth of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, who gets things done. It is a half-hour montage of film clippings with a snide commentary and accuses him of being the cause of the economic crisis, of bankruptcy, of lying to pensioners, of playing on the Germans' fear of war, of embezzlement and demagoguery and allowing an appalling inflation rate of 6 per cent.

While Herr Schmidt's performance can undoubtedly be criticized, the techniques used in the film—quotations taken out of context, manipulation of pictures with a false sound track—were cheap and nasty. Some members of the CDU and the more moderate Christian Democratic sister party are embarrassed by the film but a CDU spokesman said that it had been a "huge success" and that some 500 local party branches had bought it for DM 70 (£17.50) a copy for use during the campaign.

Some of the less savoury expressions in the election campaign are brought to the attention of an arbitration panel, specially set up to monitor tactics.

It consists of four former politicians presided over by a retired bishop, and is asked to judge complaints. These include an SPD leader declaring the opposition parties unfit to rule or the CDU claiming that Herr Schmidt is a puppet manipulated by Moscow.

The only satisfaction derived from a successful complaint is that it is a chance remark causing the complaint, which would quickly have been forgotten, has been repeated dozens of times in press reports.

The approach of the election has landed parliament with work it might otherwise have been spared. One epic which ran throughout the summer was a parliamentary investigation, demanded by the opposition, into riots in the Social Democratic stronghold of Bremen in May.

The findings were produced today. The Government and Opposition parties predictably came to different conclusions.

The Opposition is now demanding an investigation into alleged bungling which supposedly prevented the arrest of two presumed terrorists, Frau Adelheid Schulz and Herr Christian Klar.

It was not immediately clear why Herr Fernández Guzmán, who came from Huehuetenango, in the Southern Province of Guatemala, was singled out by the terrorists. A close relative said that he was not a member of any political party or trade union.

Elsewhere in the north, the police were reported today to be holding several people in connection with disturbances in Pamplona arising out of attempts by ETA sympathizers to disrupt an authorized demonstration against terrorism.

Despite the tense atmosphere in Navarre, of which Pamplona is the capital, an estimated 35,000 people turned up for the anti-terrorism march last night.

As a result of police precautions, the scuffles that did occur between the marchers and the ETA sympathizers had only minor consequences.

The atmosphere in Navarre became more tense after the arrest on Saturday of the vice-president of the provincial assembly, Señor José Antonio Urbola. He had admitted in a closed session of the assembly's human rights committee that his political coalition, Herr Batasuna (People's Unity), has the same strategy as the military wing of ETA.

In Barcelona today, the bodyguard of Brigadier General Enrique Briz Armengol, who was assassinated there yesterday, remained in serious condition. The driver of the car in which the general died was reported to be improving. Both men were wounded when terrorists from the extremist organisation GRAPO sprayed the car with machinegun fire.

## Dock worker shot dead by Basque gunmen

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Sept. 3

A dock worker, shot dead on his way to work near Bilbao today by two hooded men, is the latest victim of terrorism in the Basque country.

The murder took place only 24 hours after terrorists shot an army general dead on a busy Barcelona street.

Señor Antonio Fernández Guzmán was 33, and the father of a boy of eight and a girl of five. He died instantly with eight bullet wounds, one of them through the heart.

His assailants, according to witnesses, fired at him with sub-machine guns from a car in Santurce, on the outskirts of Bilbao, and then fled in a white van to Portogalete, also near Bilbao, where they disappeared.

Within hours of the shooting, an anonymous telephone caller told a reporter from the Basque newspaper Egin, that the ETA the Basque separatist organisation, was responsible for the killing.

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## Calls for new Spanish press law harking back to the Franco era

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Sept. 3

The Federation of Spanish Press Associations has showered members of Parliament with copies of a proposed press law which, while incorporating some good features, is nevertheless reminiscent of the Franco era.

There is no evidence that any of the political parties is in a hurry to introduce a new press law, although the 1966 press law, which is still on the books, seems to conflict with the present constitution and current journalistic practice.

The proposed law would consecrate a publisher's right to appoint an editor-in-chief of his choice and to fix the editorial line of his publication; the appointment of a director or editor has been subject to government approval. The law would also make the courts, not ministry officials,

responsible for acting in cases of alleged offences against the right of free expression.

It would also guarantee writers a procedure to prevent them being obliged to write texts contrary to their beliefs and it could prohibit in law the journalist's right to refuse to disclose his sources.

Other features of the proposed legislation are more controversial. It would bar all but graduates of the Spanish University journalism schools from editorial jobs in both printed and broadcast media.

It would perpetuate the register of newspapers and magazines, making a government permit a prerequisite for publication. It would recognize the power of the courts to prevent people from practising journalism on the basis of "misconduct" and make it a criminal offence to work as a journalist without a permit.

It would enable the Government to make the distribution of foreign news agency reports in Spain the monopoly of a single Spanish agency and give the Government censorship authority in the event of a state of emergency or a state of siege.

Some prominent Spanish journalists have spoken out against the proposed law, arguing that it waters down the guarantee of freedom of expression in Article 18 of the 1978 constitution. Yet most of Spain's journalists seem to be in favour of the legislation. Meetings of press associations all over Spain have resulted in overwhelming approval.

The press associations include many members who are officially registered as journalists but who in fact are not practising members of that profession.

## British move to end EEC butter dispute

Brussels, Sept. 3.—Britain is pressing for an early resolution of the disagreement between France and New Zealand over a proposed European Community accord on butter. British diplomatic sources said today.

The French objections were renewed at a special EEC committee meeting here yesterday. The French originally rejected the accord, reached in outline at an EEC Agricultural Ministers' meeting in July.

The British sources said that every day that goes by without an agreement means New Zealand is losing money.

Britain is pressing for the next meeting of EEC farm ministers, where it wants the butter issue to be resolved, to be brought forward from the scheduled date of September 29.

In Wellington, Mr. Brian Talboys, New Zealand's Foreign Minister and Minister of Overseas Trade, said he would leave for Europe on September 20 to try to break the deadlock.

France wants a reduction in

the minimum price at which New Zealand sells its butter in the Community, and an increase in the import levy. New Zealand had agreed to a higher minimum price, in return for lower exports to the Community.

Under the proposed agreement, New Zealand was to cut its exports to the Community by 20,000 tonnes this year in 95,000 tonnes. In return, the Community would have allowed a rise in the price from 30 to 75 per cent of the intervention price which is the level at which the EEC buys up the product to maintain price levels.

EEC commission sources said the danger that faces New Zealand now, in the absence of any accord, is a collapse of sales to the Community from the start of 1981 when the current arrangements dating from Britain's membership of the EEC expire.

The agreement was to have started on August 1, and New Zealand stands to lose about \$28.5m (about £11.8m) if it is not honoured.—Reuter.

## Hotel fire safety law attacked

By Robin Young  
Consumer Affairs  
Correspondent

European consumer organisations are demanding that the Spanish Government should consult experts in fire safety legislation about "shortcomings" in its new law on fire precautions in Spanish hotels.

The new legislation, which the consumer groups claim may tell tour operators and holiday-makers into a false sense of security, was passed after 50 people died in a hotel fire in Zaragoza last year.

A report prepared by the British Consumers' Association, publishers of *Which?* and *Holiday Which?* magazines, had previously alleged that Spanish hotels were among the worst offenders in terms of fire risk, and had been widely publicised by European consumer magazines.

In the September issue of *Holiday Which?* published today the Consumers' Association claims that when its findings were reported in the Spanish Government the response "betrayed a total disregard for all expert opinion on fire safety principles."

The consumer organisations complain that the new Spanish legislation does not demand any self-closing fire-resistant doors in hotels with more than one staircase. They say this means that such hotels may lack any protected escape routes, invalidating any other safety measures which may be taken.

Health experts say that one-third of the population over 65 years of age are over 65. Army dieticians want to break up the French habit of over-eating at lunch after eating a light breakfast. So today, the Périgueux canteen served up an English breakfast instead of the traditional coffee and pastries.

It was part of a national campaign to put the Army on a healthy diet without too much fat or sugar so that French civilians will follow.

## Breakfast shock for French

Paris, Sept. 3.—There was nearly a mutiny in the 600-man 5th Infantry Regiment at Périgueux, south-west France, today when the soldiers were given an English breakfast of bacon and eggs.

It was part of a national campaign to put the Army on a healthy diet without too much fat or sugar so that French civilians will follow.

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## Gaullist 'barons' back Debré candidature

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Sept. 3

The Gaullist barons, who support Michel Debré, the former Prime Minister and guardian of Gaullist orthodoxy, by M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the president of the National Assembly, today backed his candidature in next year's presidential elections.

It also heightens the suspense in political circles and in the press as to whether M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the Gaullist Party leader, will declare himself a candidate in next year's presidential elections.

M. Chaban-Delmas is a long-standing friend of M. Debré. His political outlook is different: the president of the National Assembly is the father of the "new society" or "new France" which he has been tirelessly defending for the past six years.

But they share a common loyalty to the general's heritage and a conviction that it is not sacred as it should be by M. Chaban-Delmas. Nor does M. Chaban-Delmas, whom M. Debré backed in 1974 as the Gaullist candidate for the presidency, forget that it was M. Chaban-Delmas who ruined Chaban's chances he had of winning the elections.

In his broadcast yesterday, M. Chaban-Delmas said M. Debré's candidature "could not leave anyone indifferent... because he is a man of the great war, who served in war as in peace, who served France, without service, because he knows how to govern, and perhaps above all because he will raise the debate to its true level."

M. Debré's decision to contest the election "in order to give the widest possible publicity to the ideas he has been tirelessly defending for the past six years, has been a blow to M. Chaban-Delmas, by threatening to divide the Gaullist movement in next year's poll," M. Chaban-Delmas said.

The fact that M. Debré has won the support of two of the most prominent "barons" of the party is evidence of the distance the old guard continues to hold from the party leader who, elected in 1974, was again in 1976, when he ceased to be President of the National Assembly.

An *Elle* opinion poll published in the latest issue of the new magazine *Le Point* shows that 22 per cent of the present M. Chaban-Delmas is several lengths ahead of any of his competitors, Gaullist or otherwise.

He had the support of 37 per cent of those expressing voting intentions, against 19 per cent to M. Michel Rocard, if he goes into battle for the Socialists (18 per cent for M. François Mitterrand, if it should be he), 11 per cent to M. Chirac, and 5 per cent for M. Debré.

But 5 per cent is a substantial lead for an independent candidate, unsupported by any party, when the outcome can, as in 1974, depend on less than one point.

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## Aborigines ask for United Nations investigation

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Sept. 3

Geneva, Sept. 3.—Mr. James Hagan, chairman of the Australian National Aboriginal Conference, today asked the United Nations sub-committee on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities to investigate what was happening to Australia's 200,000 Aborigines.

Mr. Hagan and the two other members of his delegation appearing before the sub-committee under the auspices of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples, also submitted documents, and photographs relating to events at Noonkanbah pastoral station.

Oil-drilling by the American Amco Company is proceeding there on what Aborigines claim is a sacred site, despite objections supported by many white Australians and trade unions.

He said this site represented for the Aborigines the very heart of their law and culture. It was once again "the familiar scenario of white oppression, not so much with guns but with technology and ideology."

He condemned the Australian Government for not ordering the Western Australian State Government to halt the drilling. It had been empowered to do so, he pointed out, by the special referendum in 1967.

Mr. Hagan told the commission that while the violence to which the Aborigines had once been subjected had now abated there was still "a residue" of mindless intolerance as a reminder of that brutal past and as a barrier to progress, present and future.

In denying Mr. Veronesi the doubtful honour of having his disclaimer screened nationally the court pointed out that there was an urgent need to see that the ambiguity created by use of names in this way should be stopped.

Criticizing the film itself, the judges found it was regrettable that a film should be produced to exploit commercially the publicity in the press over the recent crime.

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## THEY FOUGHT POLAND'S PARTY BOSSES.



LAST Sunday, the Polish government signed an agreement with striking workers all over Poland.

Tonight, TVEYE brings you the men and women who forced the party bosses to make their historic trip to the conference table.

For as the tension mounted, Julian Manyon and a TVEYE film crew spent the last week of the strike with the workers, sharing the heady atmosphere of the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk.

They met Anna, the 51-year-old sheet-welder whose







**elections**

Glancing. 3.45 Lacey Prince. 4.4  
45 Direct Line. 5.15 Middleton











## ENTERTAINMENTS

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**THE TIMES**

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## THE ARTS

## Tosca

## New Theatre, Cardiff

## John Higgins

The Welsh National Opera have generally done admirably by Puccini, so it comes as a surprise to find that *Tosca* has been out of the repertoire for some 15 years. The new production by John Copley, which opened the autumn season this week, was surely conceived as one to last, a veritable tour de force for the Welsh stable for opera.

It is a shame, however, that the production is in a state of considerable decay. At certain times a couple of labourers are striding through the streets of Rome, and at others a man in a military uniform is seen. The production is in a state of considerable decay. At certain times a couple of labourers are striding through the streets of Rome, and at others a man in a military uniform is seen.

he has never produced *Tosca* before, but he spent many hours working on Zeffirelli's mighty Covent Garden staging. The shadows of Zeffirelli and Calles, and they are two of the very best shadows in the business, are on stage in Cardiff, particularly in the portrayal of Tosca herself.

The first entry with the huge bouquet of flowers, the burgundy robe in the central act, the compulsive devotion which makes Tosca a genuflect in church before even casting a glance at Cavaradossi: these are all the Calles trademarks. The Swedish soprano Helena Döse, in her WNO debut, creates a thoroughly credible character with her girlish piety, which even allows her to cross herself before leaping off the battlements at the end. The voice was uneven, thrilling when used at full strength but too often occluded in the softer passages. She and the conductor, Guido Ajmone-Marsan, appeared to have different ideas about the way "Vissi d'arte" should go.

Vocally she was outclassed by her male companion, Kenneth Collins, who has for some time been one of the best Puccini tenors in the land; his voice is rare in having a consistent Italian timbre. His Cavaradossi is in every way outstanding from the fearfully "Recondita armonia" through to the caressing "O dolci mani".

The Scarpia, Anthony Baldwin, is something of a discovery. Although he was born only a few miles up the valley in Cardiff, his career has been almost exclusively German. Baldwin's Chief of Police looks a little like Pavarotti trying to play an evil role: stout, authoritative but not quite credible until he starts to sing. The Scarpia is excellently focused, and totally secure. After this Cardiff debut the WNO contracts should be out waiting.

Some of the smaller roles were poorly taken including a stagehand, Angelotti and a noisy and obnoxious Scarpian.

Guido Ajmone-Marsan began gradually calmed down, reserving the best playing until last, apart from some scrawny vocal sound in "O dolci mani". Visually the evening was disappointing, but there was no lack of the musical excitement which has come to characterize nearly all of the WNO's excursions into the Italian repertoire.



Kenneth Collins (Cavaradossi) and Helena Döse (Tosca).

## A warning of man's divine travesty

The Lighthouse Moray House, Edinburgh

Paul Griffiths

At a time when industrial sponsorship of the arts is still largely a matter of backing the state, it is heartening to find Tennent Caledonian making it possible for the Edinburgh Festival to gamble annually on a new work. And it is a stroke of deserved good luck that their generosity should in this first year of the award have elicited a piece as surely successful as Maxwell Davies's chamber opera *The Lighthouse*, which had its first performance at Moray House Gymnasium on Tuesday night.

Like *The Marston of St Magnus*, which Davies inaugurated his own festival in Orkney three years ago, *The Lighthouse* is scored for a small cast and a pit orchestra consisting of an augmented string quartet. Davies's chamber opera had its first performance at Moray House Gymnasium on Tuesday night.

In the prologue we meet the three ship's officers who discovered the lighthouse abandoned. They tell their story to the court of inquiry responding to questions put by a horn from the back of the audience, and they act out half of the tale but in their uneasy at their slight, the significant contradictions that seem to be holding something back.

The main act suggests what that might be. The three singers now take on the roles of the three lighthouse keepers, nicely characterized by the music and excellently portrayed in voice and gesture by this first cast: Neil Mackie as the

lighthouse keeper, Michael Rigney as the lighthouse keeper, and David Wilson-Johnson as the lighthouse keeper. Each of them has room to reveal himself in a sharp parody song. Sandy in a pseudo-Victorian love banal whose idyllic metaphor change into explicit sexual fantasy. Blazes in a colloquial folk number about bloody murder, and Arthur in a hymn to his venerable old, accompanied in true Salvation Army fashion by brass and tambourine.

And it is at this point, of course, that the meaning of *The Lighthouse* becomes clear. Davies's return to Australia, all the great gloomy sea-world of an expert composer and a long-established Orkneyman, the business of the opera is not with the lighthouse but with the lighthouse keeper, and all are drawn into a personal climactic scene by visions of inevitable destruction.

Given in a building only a stone's throw from John Knox's house in Canongate, the opera is an instrument of the Presbyterian conscience and a dire warning, like a much Davies has written, of the cave with which men may die.

It is a matter of his artistic strength that he can look on ostensibly alien themes and make it wholly, intensely his own. Here the process moved from a matter of the lighthouse to a matter of the lighthouse keeper, and the lighthouse keeper is a matter of the lighthouse keeper.

## Taking Steps

## Lyric

## Irving Wardle

Not usually an admirer of Alan Ayckbourn's titles, I am glad to point out that this time he has covered the whole show in two fully-fledged, strong, and well-written plays, *Lyric* and *Lyric*.

The house in question is a dilapidated country mansion in which, Roland, an alcoholic, lives with his wife, a young woman who is a professional dancer. The house is in question is a dilapidated country mansion in which, Roland, an alcoholic, lives with his wife, a young woman who is a professional dancer.

## The Battlefield

## Citizens', Glasgow

## Ned Chaillet

*The Battlefield* is a farcical play that it appears in Robert Macdonald's production. Mr Macdonald's translation of Carlo Goldoni's *La Guerra* is also funny but he allows it to appear. Goldoni has a reputation as a trifling comedian and it may well be Mr Macdonald's intention to defuse much of the comedy to emphasize the weightier ideas in the play. The play is a comedy of war, and it is a comedy of war.

steps to sell him the property, short of starting the demolition of a black velvet. These characters are bound together by an interlocking pattern of self-interest, and they are a mixture of the comic and the tragic. The play is a comedy of war, and it is a comedy of war.

The comedy is to show the characters as they are, and it is a comedy of war. The comedy is to show the characters as they are, and it is a comedy of war.

As you would expect with this combination of sex and situation, the comedy is a comedy of war. The comedy is to show the characters as they are, and it is a comedy of war.

Goldoni's wry story, first performed in 1760, concerns a siege in which a surrender is rejected on flimsy grounds and the killing goes on over an obscure piece of land. The play is a comedy of war, and it is a comedy of war.

sounds grudging it is because the anti-and-bols comedy is a comedy of war. The comedy is to show the characters as they are, and it is a comedy of war.

The performance is dominated by Dinsdale Landen's Roland, a check-suited bully with full military moustache, handing out brimful tumblers of whisky, and abruptly collapsing into a faint when his wife walks out. It is a high-pressure performance that sometimes takes off too far from the ground.

No less forceful is Nicola Paget as the humorously self-absorbed wife, retaining her blighted profession down every available ear, while leaving no one in any doubt that she will finally settle for all the benefits that hardware can buy.

But there is more comic potential than the production shows. Mr Prowse's set is a bombed-out cathedral, with wine bottles on the altar and soldiers playing cards in the pulpit. The comedy is to show the characters as they are, and it is a comedy of war.

## La Sylphide

## Festival Hall

## John Percival

For the last few days of their London season, Festival Ballet are giving Peter Schaufuss's enjoyable production of *La Sylphide*, as usual with several changes in the leading roles. Tuesday was the first time I managed to catch Elisabetha Targabust in the title part and Patricia Barr as James.

She is enchanting, an embodiment of the airy softness we associate with the romantic period. Especially attractive is the way she takes off in her springy jumps with no visible preparation, so that she evokes the illusion of flying. There is a delicate touch of humour, too, in the way she phrases the new solo which Schaufuss has added for the Sylph.

She does not impose a heavy dramatic interpretation on the role, which would be out of place for so substantial a creature, more illusion than reality, but she does play it with what seems a beautiful sympathy.

Barr dances all the traditional solos with a forceful, bounding manner. Although he does not quite match the memorable quality he brought to another ballet by Bouronville, *Conservatoire*, in an earlier season. Still, his French training serves him well in this French-style role, and only the solo of mingled doubt and exultation which Schaufuss added in Act I really throws him, as it has done most interpreters. He goes round it by concentrating on the steps, but without much expressiveness.

Terry Hayworth makes Madge a surprisingly kindly old lady at first sight: that gives an amusing offset to the paddy reading scene but also oddly with later venom when casting spells for revenge of damaged pride. All the small roles con-

## Judgment of the Commonwealth

The courtyard of the Philoxenia Hotel in Nicosia was ringed by 21 flags of the Commonwealth. When the breeze was in a northerly direction, they fluttered towards the stage, and the sight of the Turkish flag, and if any message was to be read into the multi-coloured semaphores, it was that Cyprus, despite the wounds of war, was still very much in business.

The first Commonwealth Film and Television Festival is artistically directed by Keith Lucas with the cooperation of the Cyprus Broadcasting Company and its Information Service. The host country did nothing by halves. The festival opened at the Curium, a second-century Greek amphitheatre near Limassol, holding 4,000 spectators, and not a seat's worth of stone bench was available. At the top of the vast arena, out of the least black sky, a pair of Zambian drummers signalled the opening, and a lone Chinese flautist did likewise in his own notation, and both, against the rules of counterpoint, were in harmony. Below on the stage, the Hongkong dancers teased and tempted their dragon, and the Zambian dancers, their drums and a combined Chinese and Cypriot orchestra played Benjamin Britten. It was an impressive Commonwealth overture.

Well over a hundred entries were submitted in the various categories of Drama, Documentary, Features, Light entertainment, and presented a formidable task to the jury who, because of the disparity in film technique and training, had to make certain adjustments in their judging criteria.

As it turned out, it was clear from the awards, in features, at least, that such adjustments had not been necessary. The jury could compete with Australia any time.

In the feature category, the Gold went to *Breaker Morant*, directed by Bruce Beresford. Set in the Boer war, it tells the story of the trial and execution of Lieutenant Morant on a charge of killing war prisoners who had given orders that no prisoners were to be taken. But such orders were denied and Morant had to pay the price for following them. The court martial was a mere formality. Morant had to die as a proof of Kitchener's impartiality.

*Breaker Morant* is a film that starkly crystallizes the impotence of war, and the deeply immoral flexibility of its rules. The court scenes are riveting, and one is often lured to flinch back to the events that promoted them. The dialogue is crisp, humorous and always believable. Some editing faults led to occasional confusion, and a break in continuity, and Edward Woodward's performance as Morant was so convincing that he practically tossed it away altogether. His misplaced indifference robbed the film of the passion that was intended, and brought the pity of war very close to sentimentality.

A far better film, and which, for some unfathomable reason, received no mention at all, was *Marguerite*. Made by the Tasmanian Film Corporation, it has not yet found release in this country. It is directed by John Honey, from a remarkable screenplay by Ken Kelso. In the 1830s European settlers drove the Aborigines into a

corner of the island. Manganinnie is cut off from her tribe. She hides in the bush in isolated terror. Joana, a white settler's child, is playing in the bush, and Manganinnie gently nudges her, and together they cross the rugged landscape and explore the hidden mysteries of the bush and the ritual and mythology of Manganinnie's tribe. A very moving relationship develops between them, and the two girls, passing through fear, bewilderment and wonder to love. The relationship is remarkable in that it is achieved almost without dialogue. *Manganinnie* is a film of heart-stopping silence, of a tempo that exactly reflects the slow growth of trust and loyalty between the older woman and the child. With its two lone figures in a breathtaking landscape, *Manganinnie* deserves a wide showing.

The Silver went to *Shahin Umar*, a feature from Nigeria, directed by Adams Halli. The story concerns a Hausa boy who is kidnapped and sold into slavery. His master is from Arabia and eventually adopts him, and the boy, against the rules of counterpoint, were in harmony. Below on the stage, the Hongkong dancers teased and tempted their dragon, and the Zambian dancers, their drums and a combined Chinese and Cypriot orchestra played Benjamin Britten. It was an impressive Commonwealth overture.

There was a large documentary entry both in films and television. The Gold went to *Going the Distance*, the official Canadian film of the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. It follows the story of eight athletes, the stress and expectation of competition, the triumph and the failure. It is a behind-the-scenes film, totally unmanoeuvred, and emotionally exact. The Silver went to *The Last Tasmanian*, from Australia, a very close second, that chronicles the genocide of the Aborigine by white settlers in the nineteenth century. Shown together with *Manganinnie*, it would be a fitting memorial to a unique race. *Islam*, from L.W.T., won the Bronze: a film about the polit-

ical repercussions of the Islamic revival. There were a number of special awards in the documentary category, among them the overlying but very moving *Shahin Umar*, from Yorkshire Television, Anglia's *The Seas Must Live*, and *Makarios*. The Long Journey, a Cypriot film that chronicles the struggle for survival of the Cypriot people, their leader, though officially recorded by Evangelos Ioannides, it was clear that the great leader had directed it himself. No mention was made of the Canadian *Humboldt* of God, a highly sensitive and often humorous story of a nun devoted to domestic service in the church. And none either of *Dudh Kosi* from HTV, a superbly photographed documentary of canoeists' descent down one of the most difficult and dangerous rapids in the world.

There was little argument with the drama awards. The Gold went to the BBC's *Keen, the Good Neighbour*, the Silver to *The Young Concubine* of Hongkong TV, an excerpt from a television series, and the Bronze to Scottish TV's *Cup Street*. A special award went to *ATV's Comedy of Errors*.

In the light entertainment category, the Gold went to LWT's *Stanley Baxter on TV*, which, despite its very local quality, drew great appreciation from audiences. Little acquainted with British television, the Silver went to the BBC's *Tall Me a Story* and the Bronze to Scottish TV's *Remember Jack Buchanan*. The mother of the Commonwealth took the lioness's share.

Which perhaps was a pointer to a new direction for the next Commonwealth Film Festival. A film from Papua New Guinea, whatever its passion or honourable intent, cannot, by virtue of its minimal resources, compete fairly with a film from a well-endowed first world. *Shahin Umar* was an astonishing exception. It would seem feasible that, in the immediate future at least, the Commonwealth Film Festival should not be a competitive one, but rather a forum for the filmmakers of the first and third worlds, and possibly a market place for their wares.

Bernice Rubens



Joanna in Manganinnie

## The Times Special Reports

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter.

Jack Kerouac fathered the "Beat Generation", Neal Cassady was its first folk hero. Carolyn Cassady loved and shared them both. This is her story. "Heart Beat".



Nick Nolte, Stacey Spacek, John Heard

## Steel Strike BBC 2

## Joan Bakewell

Earlier this year Paul Watson made a documentary, *Nobody Asked Us*, about the response of one Corby family to the steel strike. They had remained uninvolved but obedient to the union, by turns bemused and angry. Bill Sirs asked me, "Totally unfair," he told me, "to how most steel workers felt and behaved." Now we have another version and I cannot think he would be better placed in terms of issues or leaders, but from the point of view of the active rank and file. He demonstrated that, once a strike is on, successful picketing holds the key. To force a victory the strikers need the effective mobilization of secondary and flying pickets. No

wonder unionists do not think Mr Prior's proposed Bill is mild. If it had been law the holding of the steel strike in any effective form would have been crippled. The evidence was on the screen.

It is a rough guideline of television that news means fact, current affairs means comment. This programme was a BBC TV news special. That is why it looked the way it did. News cameramen are out in all weathers hounding the news events of the day. They shoot much more film than is seen on the news bulletins. There is plenty left for programmes such as this and for social documentaries for decades hence. For any cameramen strike means doorstepping talks, attending press conferences, following protagonists wherever they go, being where pickets are expected. They are out-of-doors action men, the padded anorak brigade, keeping their cameras turning in search of incidents, snecore, telling detail, looking

for somewhere to focus in the heat of the moment. Aggression makes a good focus, so we had plenty of authentic "on the driver and picket" confrontation. Cool appraisal makes less of a focus. And we saw little of it. Intrusion makes an event of television itself. Twice in the programme strikers' angry hands blacked out the lens. Moments of warm human response provided a gentler focus. The film is a pity. Bill Sirs dabbling his eyes, the colliery band making its own donation, the picketing striker thanking a bearded BSC employee for "having the courtesy to hear him out. Vivid stuff, certainly.

But there was plenty unsaid. This version took the issues for granted, fudged any definition of Lord Denning's judgment, neglected any background. It was one way of seeing history; the French Revolution with the camera at the foot of the guillotine.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

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## New Books

## The plain dealer at home

The Letters of

Evelyn Waugh

Edited by Mark Amory  
Weidenfeld and Nicolson  
£14.95"Laura and I will be thinking  
very joyfully about you on  
Tuesday," wrote Evelyn Waugh  
to Penelope Betjeman in March  
1948.May you live happily ever after.  
I am sure you will. You go  
coming into the Church with  
vastly more knowledge than most  
converts but what you cannot  
know until Tuesday the delight  
of membership of the Household  
of having your chair at the table,  
a place laid, the bed turned down  
in a charade and then  
the family bickering, of all  
Christendom. . . . It is a particu-  
lar joy for me to be able to tell  
you that you have known you  
in so many phases. Your  
prayers will be specially powerful  
at the moment, so please pray  
for me.Despite Waugh's stern and  
stringent exhortations to the  
contrary ("If you try to base  
your life and hopes on logical  
revelation and it is expressed  
in the vocabulary—joy, know-  
ledge, love, trust, delight—and  
through the imagery of the ful-  
filled husband, father and  
family man.The exchange with the Betje-  
mans—one day I hope we can  
read their (separate) replies in  
full—is the most substantial in  
Mark Amory's splendid collec-  
tion, but it is the tenderness of  
his letter to Laura Herbert  
from their first meeting ("A  
white mouse") and throughout  
their marriage, together with  
the happy mischief of those to  
his favourite daughter Mar-  
garet, which substantially mod-fies the portrait established  
over the last eight years of the  
artist as a monster with a  
vicious and unwinking eye.  
After Evelyn Waugh and his  
World (1973), the biography  
and the Diaries there was, after  
all, more to say.she had her hair in a  
little bun at the back of her  
neck," he wrote to his great  
friend Lady Mary Lygon in  
1935.But it is not very tidy, and she  
is only 18 years old, virgin,  
and a bit of a tease. So it is  
difficult. I have not made much  
progress; yet expect to finish her  
in a chapter and then  
go on to her which pretending to  
help her at all.He was 33, and the proposal,  
when it came, was in writing:  
"I have always tried to be nice  
to you and you may have got  
it into your head that I am nice  
really, but that is all rot. It is  
only to you and for you." They  
married two years later and the  
only cloud over the marriage in  
this whole book is Waugh's  
exasperation at the witness of  
Laura's letters ("I simply am  
not interested in Bridget's  
children. Do grasp that. I am  
not interested in Bridget's  
children; write as though you  
were talking to me.")Laura Waugh farmed and  
gardened, bore him seven chil-  
dren, of whom six survived  
and she never returned from  
Abyssinia, Jamaica, Guinea,  
Rhodesia, Downside or White's,  
that "glorious place" which re-  
minded him more painfully than  
anywhere else of his abrupt  
physical decline. Laura  
would try to be there. She  
remains a complete enigma to  
outsiders and defies even the  
camera itself, but her correspon-  
dence with Evelyn Waugh's life  
there is no mystery here. It  
would be interesting to know  
what his dazzling women  
friends thought of her."I see no woman," he wrote  
to her mournfully from Egypt  
during the war. "Celibacy is  
not so irksome as the lack of  
female company," and female  
company, too, is central to  
these letters and his life. Waughfound it far easier writing to  
his daughters than to his sons,  
and his chief correspondents  
are all women: Laura Margaret,  
the Lygon sisters, Nancy Mit-  
ford, Ann Fleming, Daphne  
Feldman, and Lady Diana  
Cooper.His letters are full of gossip  
and affection; teasing, relaxed,  
painstaking, and very funny.  
They range from a contempt for  
the Gué's adventure and a dis-  
trust of Picasso to a delight in  
the young Maggie Smith and  
Orlando the Marquess of  
Cathleen. He drew a dust-  
wrapper for Basil Seal Rides  
Again. He displays gallantry  
to Graham Greene's mistress  
even the simplest manner of  
Stewart from himself; he offers  
pages of perceptive advice on  
all Nancy Mitford's work, and  
concludes by advising her,  
since she will never acquire  
even the simplest manner of  
either, to leave grammar and  
Go alone. Sadly, she seems to  
have decided she would never  
live up to his expectations of  
her but without any real re-  
sponse, it is like watching a fast  
game of tennis from only one side  
of the court. He affected to  
believe her euphoria was patho-  
logical and almost wins the  
match with one ace after  
another when she has the  
temerity to sigh, at one point,  
"Heavenly 1948."Most of the letters chosen by  
Mr Amory are written to  
people for whom Waugh had  
love, affection or professional  
respect. His correspondence  
with Graham Greene, Anthony  
Powell, Harold Acton, Lord  
David Cecil or George Orwell is  
a model of punctiliousness and  
honesty, particularly in dis-  
agreement. There are few let-  
ters from the Twenties:  
none at all to his great friend  
Alister Graham, none to F. R.  
Leavis, who received him into  
the Church, nor to T. S. Eliot  
("Baby"). Jungman, with  
whom he fell deeply, and un-  
requitedly, in love between the  
end of his first marriage and  
meeting Laura Herbert. These  
are serious gaps, some of whichmay one day be closed, but  
there cannot now be many  
more.With the publication of these  
letters it is possible to feel for  
the first time that Evelyn  
Waugh was primarily, and not  
just incidentally, a plain-dealing  
and honourable man. His cele-  
brated beselliness, his joy in  
the misfortunes of others, the  
disgust with the world and him-  
self which he is at such pains to  
establish in the Diaries (never,  
originally, for publication, but  
type of narrative been airbrushed  
away, and it is left off the leash  
from time to time. ("I visited  
Olivia Greene—stark mad. She  
broke her arm writing a  
letter") but the overwhelming  
impression remains of a man  
whose scrupulous comic story-  
telling, like the appalling tale  
of the suburban who blew up  
Lord Glasgow's trees") is  
matched by a refinement of  
feeling not only toward the  
use of the English language  
but also towards other, particu-  
larly, souls open to the Grace of  
God.On the other hand, the poet  
had a point. Having apologized  
very clearly for being his hus-  
band, Waugh continues to Mrs  
Betjeman "Would you like me  
to hear your first confession? I  
would be a great help to  
me in my work." Helens  
on the stocks and Mrs  
Betjeman was already the  
model and dedicated, but the  
Anglican could be forgiven for  
feeling, as the ruthlessness of  
some of his letters to Graham  
Greene found common cause, a  
small, hard-cloven hoof ap-  
pearing round the door.Amory's work on this exhu-  
berant material is excellent: his  
footnotes and biographical  
notes are a pleasure to read  
in themselves. The index, too,  
often with this publisher, is a  
mere list of numbers, which  
does the richness of the text  
and the quality of the editing  
and the quality of the editing  
and the quality of the editing

Michael Ratcliffe

## Fiction

Unholy Loves

By Joyce Carol Oates

(Collins, £8.95)

The Birds of the Air

By Alice Thomas Ellis

(Duckworth, £6.95)

Clear Light of Day

By Anita Desai

(Heinemann, £6.50)

Sometimes I have felt that  
Joyce Carol Oates's talent is  
menaced by its own excess:  
she exerts words in such  
masses around her dazed  
readers that in *Unholy Loves*  
she cleverly confronts this  
near-defect, choosing a form to  
show that her gift is not the  
rich meandering it seems but  
an elaborate web in which the  
reader is meant to feel tang-  
led. "From birth onwards,"  
reflects her principal  
character, Brigit Stott, "we are  
surrounded by... a living web  
of language. The world is fil-  
tered through it. And there  
are narrators: sometimes one  
dominates, sometimes another."The demonstrate that words  
are outward images of the sub-  
stance and must not be taken  
for the substance. Joyce Carol  
Oates throws a series of  
parties for the articulate, vain,  
gossiping elite of Woodlee  
University. And it is in  
this that she demands that  
each other over drinks and  
food, proffering rumour based  
on rumour, each more distant  
from the truth as it travels the  
table. They are in a state of  
high excitement, these ac-  
cemies waiting for the great-  
est living English poet to  
arrive as visiting professor.  
Albert St Dennis is the prizewordsmith they must have to  
glid their parties.The man mumbles, dazes,  
seems deaf, forgets to turn up  
or is sick on the carpet, prefer-  
ring (it's said), tea with the  
local town librarian, a high  
camp, her principal  
friend for him is inimitable.  
They dream of writing the  
definitive work on him, receiv-  
ing his dedications, planning  
song cycles of his poems.  
Drunkenly placing the hands of  
his two taxi passengers  
together, he is not much  
more than a man of letters  
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Jacky Gillott

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## Lysistrataism

Sexual Shakedown

By Lin Farley

(Methuen House, £7.25)

Thank God I'm not a woman,

Farley says, account  
man's inhumanity to working  
women. Everything is against  
us. If plain, we don't get the  
job anyway; if beautiful, we  
become mere sexual objects  
constantly prey to male lust.  
Give in, and we are despised;  
reject what the book calls  
"vaginal relatedness" and we  
lose the job. Even old age is  
no protection. True, there is  
less chance of actually finding  
work in which to be harassed  
but this should not be interpreted  
to mean that older women are less  
subject than younger women to  
sexual harassment once they are  
on the job. On the contrary, it  
may even be that their vulnera-  
bility in the job market contributes  
to their attractiveness as victims.Eheu, eheu. It is a tribute to  
the author's persuasive and  
relentless marshalling of the  
evidence for male exploitation  
of women in every sphere of  
work that it was not until a  
few hours later that a thought  
struck me. Many of her assump-  
tions are well-founded. A lot  
of men need to feel that women  
are inherently less intelligent  
than themselves—as any bunch  
of teenyboppers giggling in  
the local pub about Mrs  
Thatcher will confirm. But from  
my own working experience in  
factory, school, university and  
newspaper offices, I could not  
think of a single instance of a  
woman who lost her job  
through male prejudice or  
sexual harassment—though  
plenty of men are sacked  
through male incontinence  
rivalry.

The inability to qualify, argu-

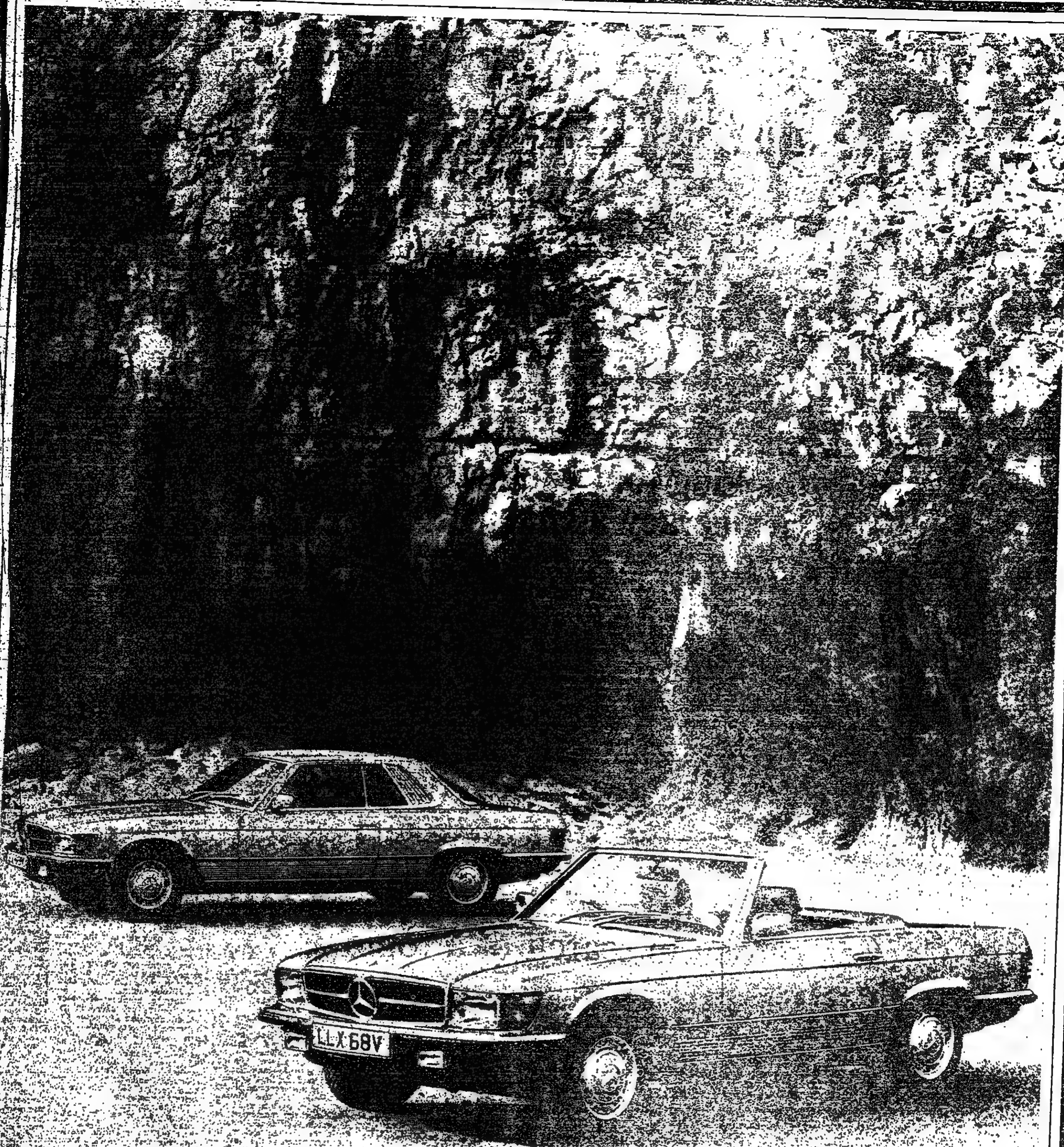
feminist writing, prompting the  
accusations of humourless and  
sexist. It is justifiable. There is  
no reason to doubt the accuracy  
of the author's painstaking  
accumulation of individual  
instances—even that of the  
chancellor who after a year's  
salary, was badly beaten up by  
her husband "because he didn't  
believe she'd get that much of a  
raise without putting on."Doubtless some women do get  
locked in boardroom and rap-  
ed by over-enthusiastic  
managing directors. Others are  
denied promotion because of  
their sex. But to imply that the  
sexually harassed are less  
substantially less breathless  
than his flavour is the sort to  
make home-made pâtés taste  
luxurious. If the only bottle in  
the house is forbidden, use  
what you can.Knowing exactly what has  
gone into a pâté or terrine is  
one of the nice things about making  
it at home, and it is tempting  
to think that lesser meat will  
make a better one. It is a  
mistake I made many times  
until I learned that being too  
calorie conscious about the fat  
produces an unpleasantly dry  
and crumbly result.Too little seasoning is  
another common disappoint-  
ment, and since it is never a  
good idea to eat raw pork, fry  
a spoonful of the uncooked  
mixture to check the taste be-  
fore committing the rest to the  
oven.Baking times will depend on  
the shape and thickness of the  
dish used as well as on the  
quantity and composition of the  
pâté mixture. To test whether  
it is fully cooked, pierce the  
pâté with a skewer. The  
emerging juices and surround-

Ruth Hall

## Guest Column

Surely we can each  
afford £2 a year to keep  
Britain civilizedThroughout my life I have been lucky  
to be at the centre of great musical  
events. As a child in pre-war Vienna  
I was brought up in a city which con-  
sidered itself the musical shrine of the  
world. The Viennese were justly proud  
of their long tradition, dating back to  
Haydn and Mozart. Some complacently  
said: "The heart and soul of the city."The opera was in full swing, and my  
greatest treat was to be allowed to go to  
performances there. These early experi-  
ences in the beautiful opera-house were  
unforgettable—although, in retrospect, it  
was my first contact with the world, rather  
than the quality of the perfor-  
mances, which made a lasting impression.My father, Erwin Stein, had his musical  
background formed by Mahler as a com-  
poser and conductor, and by Schoenberg,  
whose pupil he was. The standards which  
I imbibed were therefore extremely high  
and uncompromising. My early opera  
enjoyment was thus mixed with a stern  
discipline—that of the Second Viennese  
School. There was an almost missionary  
zeal in the Schoenberg circle to spread the  
Twelve-tone gospel of the new music.Alban Berg and Anton von Webern  
were my father's close friends and popu-  
lar pupils. I remember the atmosphere of  
devoted loyalty to the master's creed and  
standards. It was also aware of the oppo-  
sition and even antagonism which his  
compositions aroused in the public at  
large. Although revered, as prophets often  
are in their own country, Schoenberg and  
his followers were a product of Vienna,  
along with the more traditional aspects  
of the city's musical life.When I came to this country with my  
parents in 1938 the musical scene was  
very different. The German-speaking  
world regarded Britain as a land without  
music and not without justification. The  
general demand for music was limited  
and output was restricted. Orchestras and  
the few existing "permanent" companies  
such as Sadler's Wells and Carl Rosa went  
through financial crisis in financial crisis.  
Covent Garden functioned only for brief  
international opera seasons and the Proms  
had not yet achieved their mass popularity.  
All funding had to come from private  
sources and it is well to remember  
Beecham's personal generosity in keepinghis orchestral and operatic enterprises  
alive. His vast financial losses have become  
a legend, as indeed have his views on the  
musical state of affairs in this country.  
After a triumphant concert tour of  
Germany in 1936, he remarked, after a  
somewhat less key festival in Sheffield,  
"I have been playing in civilized towns  
recently."War time, and perhaps we have to thank  
the Germans after all, for turning this  
country into a music-loving nation. During  
those threatening years people turned to  
music as a source of comfort and  
emotional outlet. Listening to music  
helped us forget the drabness of life and  
offered a temporary escape into a different  
world. In fits and starts, blackouts and  
lack of transport, concerts, opera and  
ballet performances were filled to over-  
flowing.





There are no better surroundings for Mercedes-Benz advanced engineering than the sleek, spacious comfort of the SLC coupes and those leaders in sports car luxury, the SLs.

To envy of many and arguably the most handsome cars on the road, the new advanced SLC's and SL's form a technically faultless range.

Although dramatic new developments have taken place under the bonnet, the results have not been extravagant, over-powered cars of little practical value.

Top of the range, the 500 SL has benefited from our boldest engineering developments.

The nercest touch of its transistorised ignition arousing a mighty 5.0 litre V8 fuel-injected aluminium alloy engine, developing 240 DIN/hp at 5,000 revs.

New aluminium engines will also be found in the 310 SL and 380 SLC.

This time a 3.8 litre V8 with fuel-injection, developing 218 DIN at 5,500 revs. As you'd expect, the new engines from Mercedes-Benz are not only very

## OUR WIDE NEW RANGE OF ENGINES COMES IN THESE TWO SHAPES AND SIZES.

powerful, they're extremely sensible too.

So, while most other aluminium engines have steel cylinder liners, ours have cylinders lined with hard-wearing silicon crystals.

A refinement extending life expectancy and efficiency.

Another advantage of these lightweight aluminium engines is, of course, significantly improved fuel consumption.

All three models benefit from our rugged new torque converter automatic transmission as standard.

The new 280 SL's and the SLC's both have 2.8 litre six cylinder, in line,

fuel-injection engines with twin overhead camshafts.

As always, increased performance and significant technical advances have not led to any radical modifications in the classic design.

You'll hardly notice the addition of the front spoiler on the SL's and the SLC's.

And, the 500 SL's boot spoiler is anything but ostentatious.

However, once behind the wheel the difference is plain. A degree of sensitive handling that will surprise and enthuse any experienced sports car driver. While the rear spoiler gives noticeably improved

stability at high speeds. Two features that scientifically and systematically provide supremely efficient road holding and greater safety.

Not to be ignored when safety is being reviewed is the rigid steel passenger cell that was perfected and patented by Mercedes-Benz as long ago as the 1950's.

This cell is integrated with crumple zones at the front and rear which decelerate the force of the collision. So as you'd expect, the Mercedes-Benz SL's and SLC's are remarkably safe.

Of course no sports car made by Mercedes-Benz is purely sleek looks and power. Today's SLC's and SL's provide the ultimate combination of high performance, unthought of peace, quiet and luxurious comfort that for decades has been synonymous with the name Mercedes-Benz.



Mercedes-Benz



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One of the oldest, smallest, and most charming botanic gardens in Europe lies in the centre of London, hidden behind its ancient brick walls from the thousands of people who pass it each day, most of them unaware of its existence.

The four acre garden, established by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in 1673 (a century earlier than Kew Gardens) is home to a superb collection of plants, a priceless library with books dating from 1491, and a rich scientific tradition with links to many of the great early botanists.

Today the Chelsea Physic Garden, though still beautiful and tranquil, is facing a financial crisis, brought on by a close reading of the nineteenth century charter of the charity which now supports it. The many donors and trustees of the Garden — determined to prevent the closure of this historic institu-

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center the Russians and how they come off best. That would put the Russians on the spot and give the same answer, and then the same would no longer work.

Some Finns see themselves beginning to believe in the predominance of Finland as the position they have now, put themselves in vis-à-vis the Russians. They do not see that they can afford to treat any unwarranted pressure a little more strongly than they do. There is now no much at stake for Moscow in respect to a public quarrel with friendly Finland.

Europe and the eastern United States, it brought major food shortages and is reported to have inspired Mary Shelley to write *Frankenstein*.

The 18th century was marked by a number of very bad years notably 1740 and 1775, but these pale to insignificance beside the awful 1690s. During this decade often regarded as the saddest of the Little Ice Age, the weather was so cold that the melting of the ice brought famine to many parts of Europe. In parts of Scotland there were eight consecutive failures in the decade.

As a gloom-does suggest, the evidence does suggest that within a 18 months major eruptions there is increased risk of very 7 summers - the best example is that the massive eruption of Ambora, Indonesia, led to the worst summer of 1816. It is as any guide should be more worried about next summer rather than moaning as year's wet but particular cold effort.

**W. J. Burroughs**

beautifully arranged collections of living plants. Botanical family beds, laid out to demonstrate evolutionary relationships between species, and a collection of medicinal and otherwise useful plants grouped according to function are among the special features. Other features include a winter garden of plants that flower from October to April, a collection of tropical plants, and a number of "habitat gardens", including a rock garden built on stones from the Tower of London and lava brought from Iceland by Sir Joseph Banks.

With a small staff and almost every inch of space given over to plants, the Physics Garden has had to restrict entrance to the garden to a few days a week, and, for many years, the members of the Royal Horticultural Society. One way for the Garden to increase its

contact with and support the public without becoming over-run by visitors might be to establish a subscription for small groups of students or subscribing "trees of the Garden". This is a unique offering to make it possible to obtain the collection of plants to human use.

In this connection, an interesting addition to the Garden's resources would be a collection of preserved plant material, which is still a very largely unexploited and underused one that now exists in the Kew Museum Economic Botany.

How to pay for all this, of course, the problem. It does not seem to be an impossible task. The Kew Museum has half a million pounds—enough to provide an annual income of £50,000. Subscribers, besides

ural public, might include  
 National Herings, Food,  
 and to assist with June this  
 year crisis. Inside pharmacia  
 companies, whose  
 rest in natural plant pro-  
 cesses has increased with the  
 prices of petrochemicals;  
 Under London Education  
 authority and colleges and poly-  
 technicals throughout the  
 various professional pharma-  
 ceutical and medical organiza-  
 tions with a present and historic  
 connexion with the Garden;  
 institutions concerned with  
 serving the town-made  
 elements, such as the National  
 the Chelsea Society and  
 Department of the Environ-  
 ment's Historic Buildings Com-  
 The first step is a recogni-  
 of all the Chelsea Physi-  
 cians has to offer in terms  
 history, beauty and learning.  
 Catherine Caufield

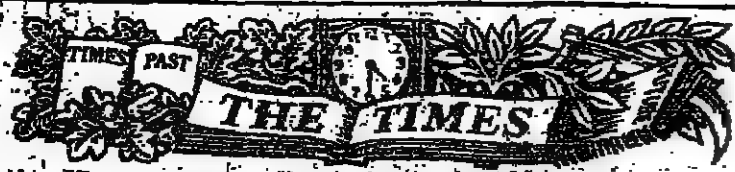
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**Alan Hami**

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New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## EFFECTIVE AND LIMITED POWER

Mr. Brezhnev has predictably attacked the nuclear targeting strategy recently made public by Mr. Carter. He calls it "extremely dangerous for the peoples of the whole world". It is an attempt to lessen the danger of war by making the nuclear deterrent more credible. A nuclear deterrent, fails to deter when the opponent becomes convinced either that he can destroy it in time or that it will never be used. Both questions have raised doubts over the American deterrent in recent years, and Presidential Directive 59, which caused such a stir earlier this month, is supposed to provide the answer. That it emerged amid a series of leaks and an inter-departmental row says more about the Carter administration than about the directive itself. That it was greeted by professions of horror and outrage in Moscow does not argue against it.

In the 1960s, NATO switched from a strategy of the "tripwire" to one of flexible response, because to threaten massive nuclear retaliation in the event of a conventional Russian attack on Western Europe no longer seemed credible in an age of nuclear parity. Now President Carter, confronted by Russian nuclear superiority in one area anyway, has had to adjust American defence strategy too.

The background theory is simple enough: by the standards of nuclear deterrence, anyway. In the 1980s the latest generation of Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles should have enough warheads (6,000) with sufficient payload and accuracy to strike twice at each of the

United States' 1,000 land-based missiles and still have enough left over to deal with other targets. Only land-based ICBMs are at present accurate enough to hit missile silos on the other side. So the Americans would have to reply to an attack on their missiles by launching bombers and submarine-launched missiles at Russian cities and large complexes. In other words, the Russians could then reply by obliterating United States cities. In other words, the Russians could take the initiative, and leave the Americans to respond, daring them to attack the cities. Would any American president dare to do so?

The answer is for the Americans to develop their own counterforce options by concentrating more of their missiles on Russian military targets. New missiles like the mobile land-based MX and the air-launched cruise missile should provide a way of avoiding total destruction by Soviet first strike, and with the accuracy and penetration to reply in kind—thus enabling the Americans to fight a "limited" nuclear war.

The perception is not new. Mr. James Schlesinger announced in 1974 that the United States was to place greater emphasis on the destruction of military targets. To accomplish this, however, the United States needed new missiles and a better command and control system. The process was slowed down under the influence of President Carter as the very time when it should have been accelerated. PD59, which lays down a new counterforce policy, more comprehensively

than ever before, is an indication that President Carter has been converted. That he did not consult his Secretary of State Mr. Muskie is a side issue which has helped to recreate doubts about decision-making in Washington, but although the Secretary of State should have been consulted, the decision itself was justified.

There are indeed arguments which can still be directed against the new targeting policy outlined in PD59. The most familiar one is that by making the United States' nuclear force easier to use it makes it more likely to be used. But it is just this likelihood that is the essence of deterrence. Another objection is simply that further refinement of deterrence strategy is unnecessary because the risks are already so horrendous that the Soviets would not seriously contemplate a first strike anyway. Could they ever be sure that a United States president would not risk the obliteration of American cities by an attack on Moscow, Leningrad or Minsk?

Even the tiny British deterrent presents risks for the Soviets which would seem unacceptable to the Kremlin. The answer to both these objections is that PD59 enlarges the range of options for the country on whom the Western world must ultimately depend for its security. The Soviets have those options open to them already, although one might not think it from their reaction to the news from Washington. The West should have them too. On balance they make deterrence more credible and thus diminish rather than enlarge the risk of nuclear war.

## THE TEST OF THE TUC'S POLISH VISIT

It would have been wholly inappropriate for a British trade union delegation to visit Poland as official guests at a time when the Polish regime was in confrontation with the Polish workers. It would have been a betrayal of the Polish workers and of the principles for which any free trade union movement ought to stand. It is wronging the ideas survived through the period of confrontation. It shows just how many leading figures in the British unions still either fail to understand the nature of the Soviet and east European systems or put their doctrinal allegiance to these systems before their duty as trade unionists to promote the genuine representation of workers' interests.

The organisations which call themselves trade unions in the Soviet model of socialism are not trade unions as we understand the sense. They are departments of the ruling apparatus. They occupy themselves partly with organising welfare facilities but mainly with representing the wishes of the regime to the workers. To that extent they are almost the opposite of trade

unions. Doctrinally they are covered by the proposition that there can be no basic conflicts of interest between regime and workers because the regime is the party, and the party represents the working classes. In theoretical discussion there is some admission that there can be conflicts of interest in developing socialism, but any suggestion of institutionalised conflicting interests has always been quashed and every birth of genuine workers' councils has been stifled.

In Poland, the regime has now officially recognised independent trade unions as genuine representatives of workers' interests. Whether these unions will be allowed to survive, or to have any influence, is still in the balance, but for the moment the Polish governments must be treated as one which in fact recognises workers' rights or is at any rate not in immediate conflict with them. This seems to remove the main objection to an official visit by British unionists. But it does require them, if they are concerned for their integrity, to see the real trade unionists in Poland as well as the officials

who invited them. The General Council's resolution, drafted before the settlement, does to its credit support the independent unionists, but its apparent desire to see them is well concealed behind a muddy formula about "all those concerned at all levels"—though this has now been clarified by Mr. Basset.

Assuming that the Polish authorities do not have second thoughts about the visit altogether, it will now be judged by how the delegates behave. They will need to show some signs of understanding the reality of what is happening in Poland. The independent trade unions are not our to replace the official unions. They want equal co-existence with them. As far as can be ascertained they have no objection in present circumstances to the TUC visit. But nor are they likely to object to meeting the British delegation. Since they are now officially sanctioned by the Polish regime, and formally acknowledged by the TUC there is no good reason why a meeting should not take place, and meetings will be the obvious test to apply to the TUC visit.

## A SOMEWHAT UNSTABLE BROTHERHOOD

The proposal for a union between Syria and Libya, aimed at destroying Egypt's accommodation with Israel, will not impress Cairo, which has itself had considerable experience of such attempts at inter-Arab alliances and federations. All these have invariably begun in good-faith, but ended in bitter disappointment. In 1958 Egypt and Syria formed the United Arab Republic, an arrangement under which the two countries were to subsume their individual sovereignties in a common cause.

The UAR fell apart three years later, largely because Egypt, at first the more reluctant partner, came to dominate the union to the point where Syria was a province of Egypt, until discontented Arab officers in Damascus staged a coup and forced Syria's secession. There were subsequent efforts at formal Arab unity, first involving Egypt, Libya and Sudan, then Egypt, Libya and Syria, who actually announced a tripartite federation in Beiruz in 1971. It was plagued by dissension, however, and effectively came to an end in 1977 with President Sadat's unilateral initiative toward peace with Israel.

Despite the rhetoric from Damascus and Tripoli about the "Zionist enemy", it is in fact Mr. Sadat who is the prime target of joint Syrian-Libyan wrath. The Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, has several times called for the overthrow of the Egyptian President, and did so again in his speech on Monday in which he

called for union with Syria, saying that by committing "treason against the Arab nation", Mr. Sadat had "put his life in jeopardy".

While offering his own services as a commander-in-chief, he has from Colonel Gaddafi stopped short of committing his armed forces to war with Egypt, however, on the grounds that the Egyptian Army had been formed under President Nasser, who, unlike President Sadat, had not betrayed the Arab cause. Instead the Libyan leader reserved the role of frontline state for Syria, which he said was now the "last bastion of resistance to Israel".

The Syrian President, Hafez Assad, responded promptly, saying he was "deeply moved" and that Syria would seize the outstretched hand of Libya in order to "achieve our common goal immediately". There is to some extent a basis for an alliance, inasmuch as Syria and Libya already cooperate within the framework of the Arab League and Cooperation Front, which opposes the Israeli-Egyptian peace process, and whose members include South Yemen, Algeria and the PLO. There is also a degree of economic cooperation between Damascus and Tripoli. But on the other hand, the chances of Colonel Gaddafi and President Assad's bluster and bravado being followed by any concrete action look slim. The two leaders have in any case quite enough problems of their own. In Syria, President Assad's position grows increasingly precarious as his country slips daily

closer to civil war. The Sunni Moslems, who form the majority in Syria, resent the rule of the minority Alawite sect to which Mr. Assad belongs; and the "banned" Moslem Brotherhood, based on such resentment, has drawn the Assad regime into a drawn-out battle of terror in an atmosphere of savage and arbitrary repression.

Colonel Gaddafi, for his part, has disturbed his Arab neighbours with his wayward and often irresponsible statements and policies. His call in his latest speech for "revolutionary committees" to march on Libyan embassies in Arab capitals (as they have already done elsewhere) is also something to be said for Cairo's view that "people's bureaus" is unlikely to raise his popularity rating. Opposition to his rule at home is difficult to gauge, but unconfirmed reports of an attempted coup or uprising centred on Tobruk last month may well have a basis in discontent among Army officers.

The Egyptians argue, with some justice, that it is not they who are isolated so much as the Syrians and the Libyans. Syria, indeed, has managed to alienate not only Iraq but also Jordan. There is also something to be said for Cairo's view that, unlike other Arab states, has at least tried to tackle in concrete form the question which the Arab world has so far failed to come to terms with, namely the future of the dispersed Palestinians, who scarcely figured at all in Colonel Gaddafi's long speech.

## Help for dissidents

From Mr. Leonard Kirschner and Mr. Horst Georgescu

Sir, We very much hope that the correspondence about "Helping Soviet dissidents" (August 6 and 14) will achieve positive results. May we also raise the case of Romanian dissidents?

Amnesty International, in a recent report on Romania (June 30), which makes grim reading, wrote about the "crust, inhuman and degrading conditions of imprisonment, including maltreatment of political prisoners" in the country. Among the names quoted in that report are three other separate releases are those of some of the founders of the 1978 of the Workers' Union of Romanian Workers (SROUR) who were subsequently brutally punished.

Dr. Ionel Căna, a medical practitioner, sentenced to seven years imprisonment (reduced to 5½ years "on appeal").

George Brăgănoanu, an economist, forcibly confined to a psychiatric hospital for the fifth time (letter, March 20) and subsequently sentenced to 3½ years.

By Mr. Len Murray prior to their visit to Romania last July, drawing their attention to these cases and to the plight of other political and religious dissidents. We were told that they have taken up these matters firmly with their Romanian hosts.

We now feel that further efforts should be made in order to obtain the release of Romanian dissidents before the forthcoming Madrid review of the Helsinki agreements and we appeal on their behalf to the British authorities and public opinion.

## Choosing a party chairman

From Mr. P. J. M. Sinclair and others

Sir, One of the most respected figures in the Conservative Party, whether as Foreign Secretary, Prime Minister, leader of the party or elder statesman, is Lord Home. Nothing in his highest office, however, has made him like the leaving of it. It will be remembered that, before resigning in 1963 as leader of the Tory Party, he recommended a system for the leader to be elected and not appointed.

We should not wish it in any way to be inferred that Lord Thorneycroft, whom many consider a prime architect in the Tory general election victory last year, should now cease to be Chairman of the Conservative Party Organisation. Yet for those who have campaigned over many years for a more democratic Tory Party, there is no more significant service that Lord Thorneycroft could now render than to indicate a system whereby his successor as party chairman should be elected and not appointed. He might then be given full status as the second elected member of the Cabinet (for Shadow Cabinet).

After all, it is the party organisation in Conservative Central Office which controls the election-fighting machine (while dependent upon voluntary resources in the constituency) and spends the party's money, raised in great measure by the constituency associations. Yet the latter are not allowed even to share responsibility for the running of the party organisation.

To remove this anachronism (which we first highlighted in our book *Set the Party Free* in 1969) needs an extension of democracy on the lines introduced by Lord Home: we look to Lord Thorneycroft for the leadership of similarly enlightened leadership.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. M. SINCLAIR,  
E. R. CHALKER,  
DAVID PINSENT,  
FRANCES CHAMBERS,  
ROBIN SQUIRE,  
RODNEY GENT,  
PETER TALBOT,  
C. HANNINGTON,  
G. A. WADE,  
C. H. A. LANDA,  
13 Queens Gate Place, SW7,  
September 3.

## Welsh television

From the Managing Director of HTV Ltd.

Sir, The decade of debate on television broadcasting in the Welsh language has noticeably lacked evidence about the composition of the audience in Wales viewing programmes in Welsh and viewers' opinions on how those programmes should be organised in future.

In 1979 HTV commissioned Social Surveys (Gallup Poll) Ltd to conduct an independent and impartial survey throughout Wales to answer questions related to positioning the Welsh language in the life of the principality. The interviews were conducted by bilingual interviewers whose linguistic ability was first properly established. Respondents were able to choose to reply in Welsh or English or to change their selected language during the interview if they wished.

The full survey details and results will be made available if required to the Parliamentary Committee on Welsh Affairs in pursuit of their current inquiry into Welsh broadcasting issues. In the meantime it may aid the debaters to know of some important elements of Gallup's findings.

Whilst it is generally stated that 20 per cent of the people of Wales speak Welsh, Gallup found that 14 per cent of respondents claimed fluency of whom 11 per cent felt able to read the language as well or better than they read English.

Only 43 per cent of those who spoke Welsh fluently wished to see Welsh-language television programmes confined to a single channel, although 74 per cent of those who did not speak Welsh fluently favoured a single-channel solution.

Significantly, 30 per cent of all respondents wished to watch programmes in Welsh from time to time. These are currently broadcast on two channels and preceded and followed by programmes in English, which in HTV's view helps to bring interest in them. We are convinced that this wider interest will be lost if all Welsh language programmes are assigned to a single channel and that the language will tend to become a curiosity rather than a sustained by television.

In the last analysis it will not be television, a powerful medium though it is, which determines the fate of the Welsh language and culture. The future will be decided by the people of Wales "at heart and home" within the family environment. Broadcasters can only put forward an honest professional opinion about their own role as they see it related to the stated objectives.

Yours faithfully,  
R. W. WORDLEY, Managing Director,  
HTV Ltd.,  
The Television Centre,  
Cardiff,  
September 2.

## Umpires' decision

From Mr. John R. Armstrong

Sir, As an MCC member I deplore the fact that the football hooliganism in the Lord's pavilion on Saturday, Nevertheless, I believe a simple question would put the affair in a truer perspective.

Can anyone imagine what might have happened at the Wembley stadium had there been a century of football hooliganism where the equivalents of Messrs. Bird and Constant, after hours of unexplained prevarication, unjustifiably deprived a huge crowd of their entertainment in a situation where not a penny of the ticket money would be refunded.

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. ARMSTRONG,  
24 Buxton Road,  
Barnes,  
Middlesex,  
September 2.

## The Pope's visit and Christian unity

From Dr. R. G. Thomas

Sir, In your second leader today (September 1) you commend the Pope's proposed visit to England as a major contribution to ecumenism.

This one dimension, as the Church are indeed divided, few would disagree, but to describe as you do, Sir, the issue which divides as no more than finer points of theological or doctrinal definition is neither true nor helpful.

Is a man saved by grace through faith alone, or no? Is he justified by the imputed righteousness of Christ, or by priestly mediation? Are the consecrated bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Christ, or are they not? Is the Mass the sacrifice of Calvary, rendered sacramentally present on the altar, or is this a blasphemous and a dangerous deceit? Is the Pope the Vicar of Christ, infallible in teaching or in canon law, or is he not? Is the Lord Jesus Christ unique as Mediator between God and man, or not? Is Scripture the sole source of the Church's authority and supreme over tradition, or no?

Sir, these are not fine points. They are fundamental and abidingly central to the Christian faith. They are issues, not questions, which our Reformers laid the lives of their churches which differ on such matters there must be charity but there cannot be unity. Let us work and pray, not for a superficial show of reconciliation but for a new reformation in the Roman Catholic Church which will at last enable the establishment of a real and lasting unity on the basis of biblical truth. May this be our earnest desire.

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. THOMAS,  
14 Darnley Drive,  
Newten in the Willows,  
Merseyside,  
September 1.

From Mrs. Katharine Thwaites

Sir, There can be no doubt that the Pope will come to England as one who asks, from his own flock, the respect and obedience due to the representative of Christ on earth. This large claim, to be the Vicar of Christ, acknowledged by Catholics and rejected by other Christians, expresses the fundamental division between the two churches. It is derived all other doctrinal differences. So it is of little use to go thundering on (Leader, September 1) about intercommunion as though this basic division would magically melt away if only we were all able to receive communion in other people's churches as well as our own.

"The present arrangements" allow us to share the Lord's Prayer, because we are all agreed that it is his prayer we are saying; they do not allow us to share the Lord's body because we do not all agree that it is his body we are eating. In so far as these differences of belief are honestly held, it is difficult to see how the two churches should be happy with indifference to or compromise of that truth. I doubt, therefore, that a disregard for honest doctrinal agreement opens the way to true unity among Christians, and I very much doubt that Pope John Paul will encourage compromise of God's truth. Therefore, I welcome the Holy Father's visit, and with you hope it will forward the unity of Christians.

Yours faithfully,  
KATHARINE THWAITES,  
24 Parkbrook Road,  
Manchester 23,  
September 1.

From Canon John Cornwall

Sir, I cannot express my delight in reading your leading article on the Pope's visit to this country in this morning's edition (September 1). I hope and believe you may receive thousands of letters of appreciation. Yours sincerely,  
J. W. CORNWALL,  
The Orchard House,  
Park Road,  
Stroud,  
Gloucestershire,  
September 1.

## Mapping the future

From Sir David Serpell

Sir, In your article on August 30 Mr. John Wright raises some interesting points. On the questions whether the review committee, of which I had the honour to be chairman, "tackled properly" the financing of the Ordnance Survey, others must now judge. The review committee's financial recommendations, based on a division of the survey into "core" and "other" activities, are in character 15 of a report which, as Mr. Wright points out, has so far excited little comment in the press.

It would be pleasant to think that the Survey is at present formally responsible directly to the Secretary of State. But if a clear remit on policy was needed—and it was—in 1979, the need must now be growing week by week.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SERPELL,  
25 Crossparks,  
Dartmouth, Devon,  
September 1.

## Radio weather reports

From Mr. S. N. Ings

Sir, I must protest at the decision of the BBC to withdraw the regional news and weather reports from Radio 4.

This is a serious denial of local news to listeners in these areas of North and West of England. In addition this five-minute slot provides an individual and very localised weather report which is of much more use than the general weather report put out from London.

I note that the BBC say that the local radio stations will provide local news and weather but on looking at the Radio Times there do not seem to be any set times for this; only "weather and news".

## Energy for ship propulsion

From Sir Frederic Bolton

Sir, As unpaid chairman, from industry, of the government committee which was responsible for the report on ship propulsion, the Department of Industry's Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board and as a former President of General Council of British Shipbuilders, I would like to respond to Sir Commodore Vance's letter (September 2). It is, in fact, not true that "the complete wind assistance has been put to anything to do with government research funds for studies, proposed, as far as possible, of those whose own views—and those of others in the industries from which they themselves come—can reasonably be held to be representative of a considered opinion".

And the truth about this "considered opinion" is that while Sir Commodore Vance's vertical wind turbine is probably one of more promising ideas for providing wind assistance, it is more difficult to succeed in confined to specific suitable routes and there are other, better, ways of providing, generally, the energy demanded for sea transport. It is not, as you say, and, ultimately perhaps, unavailing.

It is, I think, probable that a maturely thought way in which energy needs of the world can be adequately supplied will be nuclear power. The problem therefore is not to find a way to replace nuclear power, but to find a way to supplement it. The energy demanded for sea transport is not, as you say, and, ultimately perhaps, unavailing.

Yours faithfully,  
FREDERIC BOLTON,  
The Bolton Steam Shipping Co. Ltd.,  
Corn Exchange Building,  
52/57 Mark Lane, E.C3,  
September 3.

From Miss Maria Sizia

Sir, I read in your leader this morning (September 1) concerning the Holy Father's visit to England: "We do not live in an age which is excited by the finer points of theological or doctrinal definition". Indeed, we do not, and more's the pity.

While not wishing in the least to disagree with you, I feel that God's life in us manifests itself in love. I feel it necessary to point out, as St. John himself demonstrates in the first Epistle, that Christianity is not simply philanthropy; its exhortation to men to love one another with God, and I very much doubt that Pope John Paul will encourage compromise of God's truth. Therefore, I welcome the Holy Father's visit, and with you hope it will forward the unity of Christians.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIA SIZIA,  
24 Parkbrook Road,  
Manchester 23,  
September 1.

## Newhaven fort plans

From Mr. Ian Parsons and others

Sir, It is not widely enough known that new proposals, with support from Lewes District Council, who are its owners, will almost certainly result in the development of Newhaven's redoubtable Palmerston Fort as an amusement centre offering attractions totally inappropriate in an outstanding example of military architecture. Moreover, on the way to the fort, there are a number of historic events. As well as a list of familiar amusement devices, the developers propose to "remote control" games, "zoo-bus" and "military assault course for children", shops selling souvenirs, ice-cream, etc., as well as a variety of bars, cafes and a restaurant. Car parks will not only be built, but will encroach upon unspoiled cliff-top and conspicuous from the town, while "observation and picnic areas" will be situated above the sea ward gun emplacements.

Many similar historic intentions, like those at Boulogne and Antibes, or near by at Portsmouth and Eastbourne, have been allowed and maintained with great vision, and the future of Newhaven Fort should be no exception. It is surely a concern of the nation rather than of short-term local interests. We understand that the developers hope for a limited amount of public money to carry out what they call "restoration". But since true restoration would demand funds on a far more massive scale than any likely to be forthcoming, its aim, would only make more probable a form of development which would be a disgraceful ruin.

We therefore urge the Secretary of State for the Environment to withhold his approval of this project.

Yours etc.,  
IAN PARSONS,  
DEVONSHIRE,  
DONALDSON,  
VERONICA WEDGWOOD,  
QUENTIN BELL,  
JEREMY HUTCHINSON,  
DAVID THOMAS,  
Juggs Corner,  
Kingston,  
Lewes,  
Sussex,  
August 29

## Give-and-take

From Mr. A. G. Trevelyan James

Sir, BBC Panorama (September 1) reported that overtime worked in British industry during 1979 was equivalent to 12 million full-time jobs. Should not the TUC be considering the implications of this fact?

Yours faithfully,  
A. G. TREVELYAN JAMES,  
125 Harley Street, W1,  
September 2.

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August 29

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Yours faithfully,  
A. G. TREVELYAN JAMES,  
125 Harley Street, W1,  
September 2.







**Bryant**  
Industrial  
Construction  
021 704 5111

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**IMI**  
Industrial Machinery  
Insurance  
IMI Limited, Birmingham, England

Stock Markets	
FT Ind 489.8, up 7.1	FT Gilt 69.04, up 0.54
<b>Sterling</b>	
\$2.4158, down 32	Index 76.5, unchanged
<b>Dollar</b>	
Index 83.5, down 0.1	DM 1.7752, down 1.3
<b>Gold</b>	
\$637.50, down \$3	
<b>Money</b>	
3 mth sterling 17 1/4-16 1/4	
3 mth Euro \$ 11 1/4-1 1/4	
6 mth Euro \$ 11 1/4-1 1/4	

### IN BRIEF

## Work starts on new UK satellite network

The Ministry of Defence has begun work on its next generation of communications satellites with the award of parallel design-study contracts to British Aerospace and to Marconi Aerospace and Defence Systems (MSDS), a GEC-Marconi electronics company.

The requirement is for a number of satellites to be launched during a 12-year period beginning in 1983, to replace the existing SkySat 2 satellite, which was launched in November 1974. MSDS was prime contractor for SkySat, working together with Ford Aerospace Communications Corporation of the United States.

### Shares up sharply on Wall Street

Share prices rose sharply on Wall Street yesterday with the Dow Jones industrial average closing up by 10.38 at 952.16 and the New York Stock Exchange index at a record 72.71.

A decline in short-term interest rates, which some bankers believe will be short-lived, was the prime cause of the rally. The rate for federal funds, which just a couple of days ago was close to 10 per cent, was below 9 1/2 per cent today, and the dollar came under pressure. The 5 SDR was 1.32186 and the £ SDR was 0.546307.

### Gwent factory opens

Alwa, the Japanese hi-fi manufacturer, yesterday officially opened a new factory in Gwent, south Wales to produce "miniature" electronic systems. The 50-strong workforce will produce 800 sets of components a month when full production starts next week.

### £2.25m store on offer

Manchester's best known department store, Kendal Milne, which is part of the House of Fraser Group, is putting one of its retail buildings on the city's Deansgate up for sale for £2,250,000. Kendal Milne will spend £500,000 on refurbishing its main building and says none of its departments will be closed.

### Saudi buy control

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has bought the remaining 40 per cent interest in the Arabian American Oil Co. from its four American-oil partners, taking full control, Aramco officials said yesterday. The American groups are Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Standard Oil of California.

### State aid for banks

The Italian Government has submitted to Parliament a bill to provide 478,800 lire (about £239m) of public funds to recapitalize leading public sector banks over the next three years.

### Energy consumption

British inland energy consumption in the three months May to July at 70.7 million tonnes of coal equivalent was 6.7 per cent less than in the corresponding period last year, according to provisional energy department statistics.

## Call for fivefold increase in industrialized nations' nuclear generating capacity

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

Western industrialized nations need to increase their nuclear power generating capacity nearly fivefold by the end of the century to meet their energy requirements, Dr. Ulf Lantze, the executive director of the International Energy Agency, said in London yesterday.

On an estimated economic growth rate of an average 3.2 per cent a year, and only 1.6 per cent growth in energy demand to the year 2000, installed capacity would need to increase from the present figure of 100 gigawatts (one gigawatt = 1,000 megawatts) to 245 GW in 1990 and 485 GW in the year 2000.

This latest projection of the possible contribution nuclear power can make to the West's energy needs is a sharp reduction on earlier forecasts. It is 100 GW lower than the lowest projection of the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Group, which reported on the problems of nuclear power and the risks of weapons proliferation earlier this year.

But there must be grave doubts whether even Dr. Lantze's new figure can be met. Dr. Lantze, who gave the keynote address to the fifth annual symposium of the Uranium Institute, said it was absolutely essential that his latest projections were met to minimize oil use.

In order to balance supplies

and demand of energy in 1985, the nuclear component would be part of a programme in the agency's 21 member countries to triple the use and production of coal, maintain the present level of indigenous oil and gas production and import natural gas at the equivalent of six million barrels of oil a day.

If this were achieved, oil imports into the area would be reduced to 17 million barrels a day by the end of the century. From the 24 million barrels a day of 1978.

Nuclear power grew threefold in the 1970s but by the end of the decade, growth had slowed drastically. From 1968 to 1978 the average annual growth of nuclear electricity was 27 per cent, but in 1979 growth was only 2 per cent and only seven new nuclear plants were in operation, being constructed on an order. Plans for new units were cancelled in the United States, Germany and Spain.

In another paper to the symposium, Mr. Phillips Parry, of the Uranium Institute, U.K. Kuhlmann, reported that there had been cancellations of 13 nuclear orders in 1977 by three countries. For the third consecutive year, the level of cancellations had been higher than the number of new orders.

To build the number of reactors required, Dr. Lantze believes a "Herculean" effort is required.

United States all reactors under construction and ordered would need to be com-

pleted and a further four gigawatts ordered throughout the 1980s to meet the target. This would require a spectacular turnaround from 1979 when there were no new orders and six cancellations. Europe needs to order six gigawatts a year and Japan five gigawatts annually.

The greatest threat to the projections being achieved, was dwindling public confidence in nuclear power, Dr. Lantze said. Even after the accident at Three Mile Island in the United States, in which a reactor failed, releasing small amounts of radioactivity, the majority of the public was in favour of nuclear power, but moratoria could block its expansion.

Various actions could be taken internationally to assuage the public's fears, particularly the implementation of an international convention on liability, as many countries as possible to show that the long-term disposal and storage of highly radioactive substances was practical.

Nearly five years ago, nuclear power had offered a hopeful vision of the future, now the world was faced with a paralysing crisis of confidence, Dr. Lantze said.

To build the number of reactors required, Dr. Lantze believes a "Herculean" effort is required. United States all reactors under construction and ordered would need to be com-

## Alliance offers fixed interest bond

By Margaret Stear

Alliance Building Society yesterday offered a fixed interest bond for corporate investors from a building society, and hinted that as a result fixed interest mortgages could be on their way.

Mr. Roy Cox, chief executive manager of the Alliance, the seventh largest building society in the country, said that the time was approaching when societies would no longer be able to provide home loans from traditional sources.

The first £5m issue of the Alliance Building Society Bond has already met with approval from industrial and commercial fund-raising circles. The duration of the loan but would be negotiated at intervals, probably annually, Mr. Cox said. The problems are formid-

able and work has just begun to see how the mortgage market would have to be amended.

The new fixed interest bond will be placed on Friday with settlement next Monday. Manchester Exchange and Investment Bank, which has made management of building societies investments its speciality, is handling the issue in conjunction with stockbrokers Phillips & Drew who will also help develop a secondary market.

Although this is the first marketable security to be issued by a building society, it is not the first time a building society has had recourse to the capital markets. Last November, Alliance Building Society raised £20m from an international banking syndicate in a loan arranged by merchant bankers S. G. Warburg.

The Building Societies Association's own working party on negotiable securities, chaired by Mr. Brian Phillips, a Nationwide general manager, has just submitted its conclusions which are understood to be positive.

The working party was set up after the 1976-77 mortgage finance in the 1970s, which suggested that marketable securities, particularly certificates of deposit and time deposits, could smooth the flow of mortgage funds.

After the battering they received last year and earlier this year, building society net funds are beginning to improve, but the August net inflow fell below £300m, compared with £340m in June. Although mortgage demand is slackening, there are still queues.

Financial Editor, page 19

## EEC move for bigger cuts in steel output

By Our Industrial Staff

British steelmakers may have to cut production in the last three months of the year by 4.6 million tonnes against 5.3 million tonnes, according to a report of a European Commission plan to combat depressed world demand for crude steel.

The commission said in Brussels yesterday that it wanted a 13 per cent cut in EEC crude steel production in the last quarter. The recommendation had been made to enable the steel sector to accomplish an overall production cut of 10 per cent in the second half of the year.

The 10 per cent cut was accepted in July by all EEC steelmakers, except the Italians, in an attempt to weather the worldwide slump in production. The target for the fourth quarter is now 31 million tonnes compared with 35.67 million tonnes a year ago.

As a result of the decline in demand, the European industry has shed 200,000 jobs, about 15 per cent of the total workforce, since 1974.

The new targets have yet to be approved by the European Coal and Steel Community Committee, which has its next meeting on September 12.

Viscount Darnley, the European Industry Commissioner, told the Commission that more steel would be needed to lower steel orders from the Commission, which has its next meeting on September 12.

Viscount Darnley said that Japanese steel production, which has been a significant factor in the export of steel-based products and a recovery in shipbuilding, continued to rise. However, Japan's forecasts for the third quarter now indicate a fall in production.

World recession, declining markets and over production in the European Community have depressed steel prices. Commission sources said.

Production targets now being recommended for the EEC steel nations are: West Germany 9.77m tonnes (11.24m tonnes in the last quarter of 1979); France 5.7m tonnes (6.55m tonnes in the last quarter of 1979); Italy 4.5m tonnes (5.39m tonnes in the last quarter of 1979); Belgium and Luxembourg 3.88m tonnes (4.47m tonnes in the last quarter of 1979); Britain 4.67m tonnes (5.37m tonnes in the last quarter of 1979); Denmark and Ireland 0.2m tonnes (0.2m tonnes in the last quarter of 1979).

Meanwhile, a meeting of workers at the British Steel Corporation's works at Consett will today decide whether to continue the fight to keep the plant open or to start negotiations on severance pay. The corporation is due to close the works next week with the loss of 3,700 jobs.

However, vital plant at the Consett works will be preserved for a "reasonable" time after closure down to enable potential purchasers of the works to recommence steel-making. A consortium of north-east industrialists has already had exploratory talks with the Department of Industry.

The Welsh Development Agency yesterday announced a £7m programme to develop 176-acre industrial estate to provide jobs for 5,000 steel workers made redundant at Port Talbot.

## £125m automation will cut 3,000 jobs at Cadbury chocolate plant

By Clifford Webb  
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Cadbury Schweppes is to invest up to £125m to modernise its biggest chocolate plant at Bourneville near Birmingham. But the introduction of some of the world's most automated confectionery machinery will be at the expense of jobs. The 7,000 labour force will be reduced to less than 4,000.

The company pointed out last night that the move was part of the confectionery division's five-year streamlining plan which should make it more flexible in reacting to market demand. The 3,000 jobs to go will be spread over the next four years and, where possible, achieved by voluntary redundancy and natural wastage.

Seven hundred Bourneville workers were made redundant last month because of the slump in confectionery sales which began with the increase in value added tax last year and shows no signs of recovering.

Nearly 2,000 of the remaining 7,000 are part-time workers, most of them women. It is believed that increased automation will enable Cadbury to produce more chocolate and still be able to increase production rapidly to meet an upswing in the market.

It is understood that a number of low volume products will be phased out in a streamlining programme affecting both Bourneville and group's second chocolate plant at Somerdale in Bristol, where extensive short time working is in operation.

A Cadbury Schweppes spokesman said last night: "Discussions have already taken place with the unions and are continuing. We are keeping them fully informed of our plans. A statement will be made tomorrow when we announce our half-yearly results."

"Substantial advances have been made in the development of new confectionery technology which means that automated machinery can now perform work that was impossible only a short time ago."

Interim profits: Cadbury Schweppes will report interim profit figures today which the company expects could range from £18.5m to £20m against £21.7m for the same time last year. (Philip Robinson writes). The £125m investment figure has surprised some observers. Although Cadbury has already said it will raise its current level of debt from £10m in line with inflation, the plan appears to involve a larger sum than expected.

This comes at a time when the volume of the chocolate market has dropped 10 per cent in the past six months and do-stocking by retail outlets could well have hit the "mixer" market.

It is thought unlikely that the company will want to raise the share price through a rights issue this year.

## BICC set to pay £10m for Higgs and Hill

By Catherine Guon

BICC, the cablemaker, is ready to pay £10m for Higgs and Hill, the building and property group, if independent auditors are allowed to examine Higgs' assets.

This is BICC's second attempt to acquire an independent audit of Higgs and Hill, but it is the first time a price has been named.

Six weeks ago BICC announced that it would bid for Higgs and Hill if an independent audit confirmed the December 31 valuation of net tangible assets of £12.5m. But Higgs and Hill's board was not prepared to let a third party examine its books while there was no legal commitment to make an offer.

BICC has now said it would be willing to offer cash of 110p a share, but it still wants Coopers and Lybrand, the independent auditor, to check the assets.

BICC has conceded that Coopers and Lybrand should work with Longcroft, the auditors for Higgs, during a normal audit period. BICC wants to merge Higgs and Hill with Balfour Beatty, its contracting subsidiary.

Mr. Edwin Phillips, chairman of Higgs and Hill, is still unhappy about the demand for an independent auditor's report, before a formal offer is made. His board cannot meet to discuss the position until Friday because several directors have to be called back from holidays.

If no agreement on the audit is reached by September 12, BICC under the Takeover Panel's instructions will make no further approach. But Higgs and Hill can reopen negotiations if it wishes.

Higgs and Hill expects to be back in profit this year after a £908,000 loss last year. Fully audited interim results will be released in October and property are being revalued.

BICC's suggestion of a joint interim audit was taken from an idea of Mr. Phillips. The cablemaker has tried to make room for the likely conservation of an independent auditor's report, before a formal offer is made.

## Bank support agreed for Weir after loss

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Further losses and a weak balance sheet have led Weir Group, an important Glasgow-based engineering company, to agree "on a basis for continuing support" with its bankers.

Yesterday, Weir published interim results showing a loss of £2.4m after exceptional redundancy costs of £1.5m and a 10 per cent increase in its interest on bank borrowings.

It is this coupled with the group's heavy borrowings that apparently led to consultations with the Finance Corporation for Industry, the medium-term lending institution from whom Weir has taken an £11m loan repayable in 1985.

After these discussions Weir has put in hand a review of the scope of its operations and an assessment of future capital requirements.

The company adds: "In the meanwhile the banks and FCI have agreed on a basis for continuing support for the operations of the group (including bonding facilities in respect of home and overseas contracts) under which they have obtained a measure of security by way of charges over the assets of the United Kingdom companies."

The bankers are apparently satisfied that Weir has taken the correct action. This has included a reduction of some 300 in the workforce at Weir Pumps, while further executive management changes are also being implemented.

Weir says that other parts of the group, though not without problems, continue to operate broadly to budget while overseas companies show encouraging results.

Nevertheless, losses are expected to continue in the second half of the year at a reduced level, and the stock market's reaction was to bring the shares back by a further 31p to 25p, a 12-month low point.

## Hope of early cut in MLR helps boost share prices

By Our Financial Staff

Shares picked up again yesterday on further selective buying and hopes of an imminent cut in the minimum lending rate.

Citibank's early securities reported rises of up to £1, spurred on by further overseas buying and the strength of sterling.

Despite the bad set-back figures expected to be released on Tuesday, the market was buoyant, with interest rates later in the week.

Equities remained volatile with selective buying in a thin market, pushing prices steadily higher. The FT index closed at 489.8, up from 487.1 at 4.45p.

Oil was particularly strong with BP gaming 4p to 34p ahead of today's profits announcement which is expected to be disappointing.

Electronics, too, enjoyed strong interest with Rascal rising 5p to 30p and GEC putting on 10p to 49p following

the award of a major defence contract.

Three leading insurance companies, Phoenix Assurance, Sun Alliance and Commercial Union, released interim figures roughly in line with market expectations. All have reported losses on underwriting, which at this stage of the insurance business cycle, is the normal pattern. All have been affected by poor results in the United States where intense competition has kept premium income low.

The Phoenix reported before-tax profits up from £14m to £16.9m. General underwriting losses have increased from £8m to £9m but long-term underwriting profits are up from £1m to £2.3m. After adjustments.

Sun Alliance reported a 68 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £26.4m. Underwriting losses on the general business have been reduced by £5m and stand at £15.2m in the first six months.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Dramatic savings if automated distribution has long run in West End Computer box office may be just the ticket

Two hundred theatres in Britain may soon find relief from the burdens of increased value added tax and the recession with a computer system designed to help sell more tickets.

The Box Office Computer System will have its performance reviewed by the audiences of the National Theatre, the Royal Opera House, the English National Opera, Royal Shakespeare Company, the Barbican Centre, for Arts and the Royal Festival Hall.

The product is the work of Space-Time Systems, a new British company which includes among its shareholders the Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust, the Cardinal Investment Trust and the Alliance Investment Company.

For theatre managements, the use of computers to sell tickets will be a departure from their normal practice but increasing pressure to reduce costs. Even on its first night the system is able, according to its producers, to save

about 1.5p on each ticket. This is a large saving on the million tickets a year sold by the National Theatre.

The system is based on an American computer made by the Digital Equipment Corporation. Up to 20 terminals can be attached to the computer unit. The terminals give a plan of the theatre seating and up to 2,000 seats can be displayed at a time. Once a seat has been selected, it is agreed by the buyer the ticket is automatically printed and issued on the spot.

The National and other theatres have provided the information on which the system was designed. Indeed the National Theatre is searching for such a system for more than five years.

Computer booking systems have been launched in the past but for one reason or another they were doomed to disaster. But the savings of any system will ultimately win the critics.

Since 1958, when it began to be numbered in 1858 and counterfoils used in books of tickets in 1884, the system of ticket issuing has not changed much.

The computerized system will allow tickets to be sold at a number of locations almost up to the curtain going up.

At the moment the National Theatre orders tickets in batches of six months for each of its three theatres. If the system is adopted all tickets would be issued at about 14 terminals.

Because of the timing of the issue far greater detail can be printed on the ticket about performance times and actors than is possible at the moment.

Information for mailing lists and credit purchases should be made more easily accessible by the system.

On time will tell whether the system's performance meets the need and whether the reviews are too bad to allow the show to go on the road.

But with only a few of the 200 theatres around the country that would be interested in the system able to justify spending thousands of pounds on it, there is a danger of it having only a limited run.

Bill Johnstone

## Honeywell sheds 330 jobs and shuts factory

By Our Industrial Staff

Honeywell, the American-owned electronics company, is to close one of its five Scottish factories and phase out 330 jobs by the middle of next year.

The company's Uddingston, Lanarkshire, plant is to close with the loss of 200 jobs and Honeywell is seeking 130 voluntary redundancies at a nearby microswitch unit.

The Honeywell announcement comes at a time when the volume of the electronic market has dropped 10 per cent in the past six months and do-stocking by retail outlets could well have hit the "mixer" market.

It is thought unlikely that the company will want to raise the share price through a rights issue this year.

Basic Tools, of Openshaw, Manchester, which was acquired by the Sheffield Aurora group in 1978, is to close with the loss of 250 jobs. The company is facing losses of more than £500,000.

Manganese Bronze is making a 20 per cent cut in the 420-strong workforce at its motor components factory in Ipswich. Crompton and Parkinson, the electrical group, is to make 90 people redundant at its Dorchester plant in a month's time.

British Steel Corporation gave a warning of more redundancies with an announcement that short-term working would come into effect at Appleby-Frodingham and Normandy Park plants at Scunthorpe from the beginning of next week. Almost all the 15,800 workers will be affected. Some staff will work only one week in two.

The Dowry Engineering works at Hucknall, Nottingham, is introducing a three-day week for 180 production workers from next Monday. The company makes mining equipment.

### ADVERTISEMENT

## TRADE INDEMNITY COMPANY LIMITED

Interim Report by the Chairman, Mr. F. R. Dugdale, MA, on the six months ended 30 June 1980

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 2.2 pence per Ordinary Share in respect of the financial year which will end on 31 December 1980. This Dividend carries a Tax Credit of 0.94286 pence, making a total of 3.14286 pence per share. The Interim Dividend for 1979, after adjustment for the increase in Share Capital on 2 October 1979, was 2.0 pence per share with a Tax Credit of 0.85714 pence making a total of 2.85714 pence per share.

The Dividend will be paid on 3 November next to Shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 20 October.

PREMIUMS WRITTEN on the three open Underwriting Accounts in the first half of 1980 totalled £12,394,076, an increase of 15 per cent on the comparable figure for the first half of 1979.

THE 1979 UNDERWRITING ACCOUNT at 30 June 1980 after making provision for all known claims, showed a credit balance of £2,703,568. This compares with a credit balance of £2,414,304 on the 1977 Account at the same stage a year ago.

THE 1979 UNDERWRITING ACCOUNT showed at 30 June 1980 a credit balance of £1,705,886 after making provision for all known claims. The credit balance on the 1978 Account a year ago was £2,263,734.

Both balances exclude the Underwriting Contingency Reserve, which stood at £1,000,000 at the end of last year.

GENERAL

At a time when the United Kingdom economy has been moving more deeply into recession, the repercussions on our own activities have been very much in evidence. Tighter liquidity, falling demand and lower profitability have led to a sharp increase in the number of business failures and collections notified to the Company and, in turn, to a rise in the number and value of claims paid.

With a growing awareness in the business community of its vulnerability to such conditions, there has been a noticeable increase in the call for our services; so much so that in the period under review projected premiums on new policies were nearly double those in the first half of 1979. With little likelihood of any improvement in the economic climate for some time to come, I am convinced that the Company's facilities will be in even greater demand in the second half of the year.

2 September 1980.

### PRICE CHANGES

#### Rises

Ferranti	15p to 42p
GenCorp	35p to 35p
Global Nat Res	20p to 20p
Man Ship Canal	20p to 20p
Norfolk Exp	45p to 44p

#### Falls

Black & Edgton	5p to 2p
Diploma Int	17p to 5p
Gas & Oil Acre	5p to 30p
Howden A	5p to 7p
Ldu & Euro Grp	5p to 2p

### THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.14	2.07
Austria Sch	31.70	30.80
Belgium Fr	72.50	69.00
Canada \$	2.84	2.76
Denmark Kr	13.71	13.16
Finland Mk	9.13	8.73
France Fr	10.31	9.86
Germany DM	4.45	4.24
Greece Dr	104.00	99.00
Hongkong \$	12.15	11.65
Ireland Pd	1.17	1.13
Italy Lit	2115.00	2020.00
Japan Yn	547.00	512.00
Netherlands Gld	4.85	4.64







BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Alliance breaks new ground

Penal interest rates, economic uncertainties and expensive houses (relative to current incomes) have all served to take the pressure off building societies. Mortgage queues may not have vanished, but they are dwindling. However, the underlying demand for mortgage remains as strong as ever, and the net inflow of funds into building societies just as inadequate.

A return to a competitive interest rate structure is a short-term solution. It may also be the long-term answer as last year's Stow Report on mortgage finance in the 1980s concluded. But there is still a case for raising money in the wholesale market of only to stabilize the flow of housing funds.

So yesterday's announcement by the Alliance Building Society of a £5m issue of yearling bonds, the first negotiable security ever offered by any building society, has pre-empted the conclusions—expected to be wholly favourable—of the Building Societies Association's own working party on marketable securities.

More societies can be expected to follow the example of the Alliance or, as is more likely, issue certificates of deposit or time deposits. The Bank of England's cautious acquiescence of the Alliance experiment—it suggested that a single issue of no more than £5m was the right way to test the market—should not be construed unfavourably.

It is, after all, in the authorities' own interest too to let the building societies have access to the capital and wholesale money markets.

The alternative can be more painful since societies may ultimately respond to continued mortgage shortages by pushing up interest rates across the whole savings sector; their activities in the gilt market as they adjusted liquidity levels could also be disruptive.

Ironically, the people who could be hurt most are those very people the building societies are trying to help. Flexing their muscles in the wholesale money markets with certificate of deposit and time shares will undoubtedly make building societies more like banks than they are now—and the Government has warned precisely that such a development could result in building societies both losing tax advantages and coming under the system of monetary controls. It is the price that building society members may have to pay for a regular flow of mortgage funds.

### Composite insurance A sector in favour

After five years in the doldrums insurance shares have spurred ahead in the last quarter, outperforming the market by around 20 per cent. Even after yesterday's somewhat expected interim results from Guardian Royal Exchange, Phoenix and Sun Alliance, the shares firmed in anticipation of better things to come.

In fact it is not so much hopes of an improving profitability in the short-term that keep insurance shares strong, but the knowledge that just about every other sector in the United Kingdom economy is going to do badly.

To the extent that institutions commit part of their funds to the United Kingdom market, insurance shares have in the past few months been given more than average weighting. After a pause, and possibly a bout of profit-taking by some early investors, the shares should be outperforming again.

This is especially so because the insurance business follows a well determined cyclical pattern and the auguries are that the bad three year part of the cycle is now tailing off and that from next year good times will start to come back.

Sun Alliance and Guardian Royal Exchange which are more oriented towards the United Kingdom than Phoenix were, slightly more disappointing because there was general expectation that after last year's winter and its bad consequences for the business this first half should be good.

So GRE reports a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at £36m and a 20 per cent increase in the interim dividend.

Investment income is well up by 22 per

cent underlying growth thanks to exposure to the United Kingdom.

Sun Alliance has reported a pre-tax profit rise of 68 per cent at £26.4m. It has seen improvement on the personal accounts and fire underwriting while accident and motors still deteriorated. Phoenix which is exposed to the United States more than the others has reported only a slight improvement from £14.8m to £17.8m.

Stiff competition in the United States has affected all companies. Elsewhere in the world conditions still remain poor. But if cyclical patterns hold there should be an improvement next year.

### Weir Group An undertaking from the bankers

Weir Group's interim statement is clear enough up to a point, and is presumably designed to show that its bankers are sufficiently confident that it has taken the proper remedial action in the pump manufacturing business for them to continue support.

With the last balance sheet showing that borrowings matched shareholders' funds. Weir needed to produce this sort of undertaking from its bankers, particularly after a first half that has gone sadly astray following a statement from the chairman as recently as April which indicated that the management was on top of the difficulties in the pump business and that, despite recessionary conditions, some improvement was expected after last year's profits collapse from £7.2m to just over £7m.

That like the first half of this year which produced losses of £2.4m, was struck after heavy exceptional terminal costs including redundancies, and to make matters worse Weir has an overseas tax liability.

At this point so far as one can judge the position appears to be under control and being closely monitored by Weir's bankers, though the shareholders will naturally be disconcerted by news of heavy and surprising cost overruns on major contracts in the pump business, and of course by the lack of an interim dividend following the passing of last year's final. At 25p, then the shares must be highly speculative.

### Higgs and Hill BICC relents

BICC's initial heavy-handed pursuit of Higgs and Hill was ill-conceived and duly rebuffed. Six weeks later, BICC has modified its demands.

Originally BICC wanted carte blanche to send in an independent auditor to check Higgs and Hill's net tangible asset position before making any bid, or even suggesting a price. Higgs and Hill refused. Pressure from institutional shareholders of Higgs and Hill to indicate a price, and instructions from the Takeover Panel to get on and make an offer or pull out, prompted yesterday's move from BICC.

Now BICC says it is willing to pay £9.81m cash for Higgs and Hill, at 110p a share, provided it can send in an independent auditor, Coopers and Lybrand, to share the interim audit. If that produces net tangible assets within £2m of the December 31 figure of £12.3m, BICC will proceed with a formal offer. On Takeover Panel insistence, there is a time-limit on this gambit, expiring on September 12.

Meanwhile, Higgs and Hill are going to revalue its properties as early as possible and its interim figures will be audited as a precautionary measure. It expects to make profits again this year. Last year's £908,000 loss followed exceptional, £2.5m provisions for losses on a Trinidadian contract.

BICC says it is because the construction industry is prone to that sort of problem that it made its pre-bid demands to see the books.

Meanwhile, the Higgs and Hill property revaluation sounds as though the group is grinding up for battle. The market, however, is on the fence. Yesterday with the shares motionless at 89p after a run up from 75p the previous day.

If Higgs and Hill produces profits for this year similar to 1978's £2m, the exit fully taxed p/e ratio at 110p would be around 10.

### Economic notebook

## Will anyone with a miracle please stand up

The Treasury's Economic Progress Report is to Whitehall watchers what *Pravda* is to Kremlinologists. It is not read for its facts (it often contains none) but for the insights which it gives into the thinking of the Central Committee. The latest issue, published yesterday, is a classic of its kind. It is devoted entirely to the question of earnings and employment, and to the lessons which should be drawn by wage bargainers.

It is the latest indication that the Government has recognized that it has a real problem about pay as we start on the next pay round. At the core of the article is a chart which compares two lines, one of which is produced by dividing average earnings by sterling M3 for the period from 1965 to 1979. It shows that the two lines have tended to move broadly together. When the line—produced by dividing average earnings by sterling M3—is rising, so is unemployment; when it falls, unemployment comes down, too.

It would be easy to score the obvious points which such an argument invites. Why, for example, if this is the explanation, does the EPR also contain a chart showing that United Kingdom unemployment has moved in line with the rest of the world?

It is hard to see why world unemployment should move in step with a line produced by dividing British average earnings by increases in sterling M3. Indeed, it is hard to see where this new variable has come from at all or how the Treasury hopes that it will induce people to learn the right lessons.

For the lesson which it is hoped people will adduce is that high wage increases cause unemployment, yet as the Treasury itself admits such a chart can be used to argue for a faster increase in sterling M3. If that were to happen, of course, the combination of high pay rises and an accommodating monetary policy would just lead to inflation, which is clearly undesirable in itself.

All of these points are, however, essentially about the rather eccentric way in which the Treasury chooses to produce its message, which is that wage rises should come down so that they are "in line with the monetary target", whatever that may be at the moment.

On this issue the Treasury is clearly absolutely right. The present level of pay increases is disastrous for the economy.

### Prospects

It causes inflation to continue at an unacceptable level, and because the Government feels that it must fight it by holding down demand it also causes unemployment. Anyone who comes forward with a miracle cure which reduces the level of pay increases would be doing the country a great favour. It would not cure all our problems, most notably on the supply side, but it would deal with the most serious one.

Yet the Treasury not merely has nothing to offer more than exhortation; it actually shows clearly why the prospects for moderation are so poor. The squeeze on employment is, for most people, a very indirect affair. "Many of the effects operate at a macroeconomic level so it is not in those firms which grant large pay rises that the job will be lost."

That is the first difficulty facing anyone seeking to persuade pay negotiators that they should reduce their pay demands. There is the certainty which comes from getting the pay rise rather than fear the possibility of the job loss which may follow.

The second problem is that which has most graphically been described by Professor James Tobin of Yale. The analogy which he uses is that of a crowd watching the circus. If everyone is sitting in their seats the all are comfortable and all can see. In economic terms, that corresponds to low inflation and low wage settlements. If everyone is standing up then everyone can see, but they are considerably less comfortable. That corresponds to high inflation and high wage settlements.

It would, of course, be sensible if everyone were to sit down, and in such circumstances the crowd is likely to have its full share of people advising others to do just that. But unless everybody else sits down at the same time, anyone who sits down is likely to be the only one in the crowd who will end up seeing precious little. In such circumstances, appeal to the general good will have little effect. It is only when having bought a ticket, that one has a right to their share of the view.

### Problems

That is the general problem about pay restraint. But if we start from present levels of inflation there are particular problems on top of that. The first is that the average level of settlements is high but so is the spread of settlements. This means that union negotiators feel that the relative position of their members' earnings is deeply involved in the results of an annual settlement.

To see how this works in practice, think of a situation where average earnings are rising by 5 per cent a year but where settlements can be a fifth higher or lower than this level. That means that they could be as low as 4 per cent or as high as 6 per cent. If the negotiators get it "wrong" it could result in their members being up to 2 per cent worse off than some group with whom they regard themselves as comparable.

But in a world where average earnings are rising at 20 per cent a year the stakes are much larger. If the variation is once again a fifth either side, the increases could be as low as 16 per cent or as high as 24 per cent.

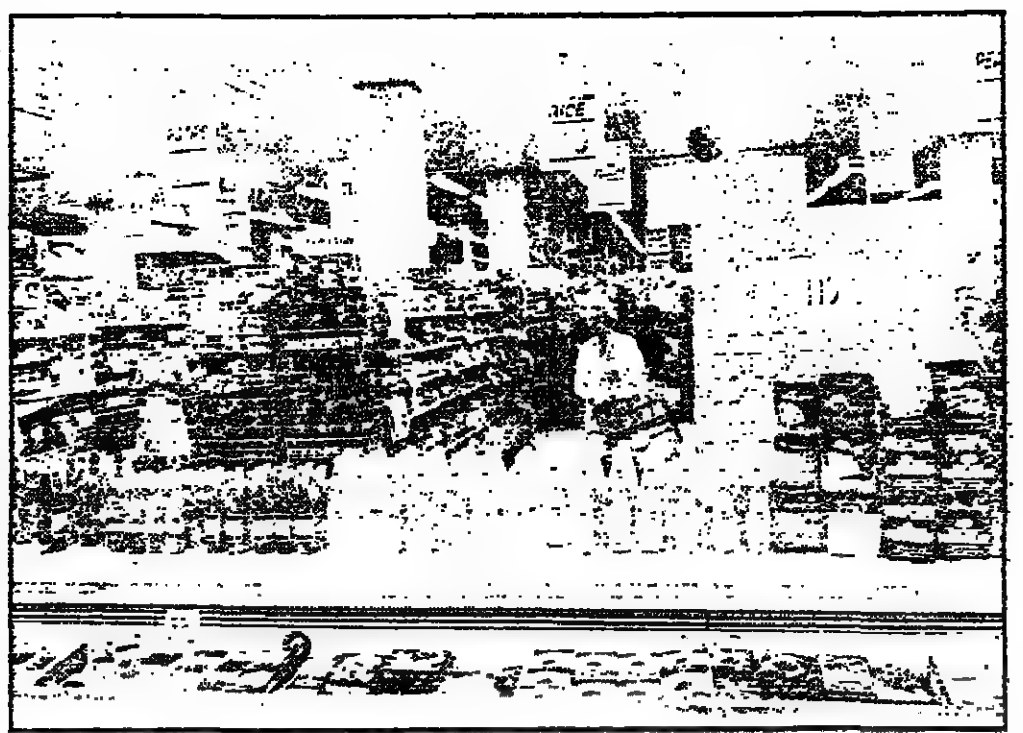
That implies a potential change of 8 percentage points compared to other groups and the possibilities are even greater. For the really effective level of settlements is not that nominal wage cuts are virtually unknown since the war, so that in an extreme situation wage bargainers could lose the relative position of their members eroded by well over 20 per cent in one year.

What can be done about all this? One obvious thing to do is to try to reassert some general feeling of where the right level of settlements lies. Here, the Treasury is beginning to show some sense. It calls for settlements to be made in line with the monetary target. Why it feels the need to go by this curious indirect route instead of saying to 11 per cent—or whatever the figures are meant to be—is uncertain.

The second thing is to find a way to separate out arguments about the level of pay settlements from relative movements in pay. There are in fact, a growing number of quite sophisticated ideas around on how to do this.

If the Government really wants to bring down both wage inflation and unemployment it is in that direction it will have to start looking, not drawing charts to show how badly it is doing at present.

David Blake



Wood Green Co-op—a thriving store, but 115 uneconomic food stores have had to go.

## Decision time for the London Co-op

Derek Harris

The troubled London Co-operative Society announced on Tuesday night that it is starting a major restructuring programme, particularly involving the closure of some 30 price-cutting outlets where no dividend stamps are given and where volume sales have been sharply increased, has largely accounted for an investment programme of some £15m in as many months.

But Mr Doherty says that with the present trading difficulties on the high street the London society will do well to keep losses this year at last year's level. Then there was a £1.9m loss on a turnover of £230m although sales growth has gone to 7.3 per cent.

This year the society's sales growth is getting back to better levels although probably at a cost to margins in the new price cutting outlets.

The London society's mix of trade is not untypical of the Co-op although it has 24 department stores and a chain of chemists. It is the Co-op's reliance generally on food sales with their virtually nil gross margins which is the problem.

It also shows in a slowness to change. Too often commercially desirable development plans are blocked by sectional interests in the democratically run societies. A Co-op will keep a small shop in a remote locality going at a loss for years, and that might not be a bad thing if the shop that ought to go in a less remote locality were kept on because a group of active society members cannot face the loss of convenience.

The chief executive of a society may see the need to close a large percentage of his older outlets. But getting closures through the democratic machinery can often be a slow process.

That does not mean the Co-op nationally is half a century out of date. Far from it: it is the second largest supermarket chain in the country next to Asda Stores the Associated Dairies subsidiary, which has had the advantage of starting from scratch in new locations unburdened by out-of-date stores.

But while supermarkets are being built not enough of the older stores which ought to be shut are going. The number of Co-op outlets is declining only slowly. Last year the total stood at 10,000 less than 5 per cent below the 1978 figure.

When Mr Frank Doherty, then as now chief executive of the trading Greater Nottingham Co-operative Society, was seconded just over a year ago to take over as chief executive of the London society he found an organization with rather more than 550 outlets which was turning over £214m during 1978 with a sales growth of only 2.5 per cent.

The net trading loss that year was coming out at £1.8m, following a £20.0m loss the previous year and £1.1m in 1975. So far he has closed 115 food shops and he believes that has broken the back of the closure programme needed to weed out uneconomic units.

But it would be surprising if there was not a further closure of food shops.

Horror, however, has followed horror. The 1,000 shop-floor workers have been told their 10-minute tea break has been cancelled because it disrupts production.

This blatant attack upon the shop-floor has been made worse by a ban on hairdressing facilities during working hours, the end of credit at the factory shop, reductions in holidays, and discretionary sick and death benefit schemes.

Management said the move was part of a scheme to boost productivity by 30 per cent to ensure the survival of the firm which is at present working a three-day week.

The pursuit of scientific knowledge knows no barriers. The Building Research Establishment has just commissioned Dyno-Rod to interview 1,000 householders in the Leicester area on a hitherto unexplored area of human activity. The luckless interviewees will be asked what techniques they use when flushing the toilet.

David Hewson

## Business Diary: Reading's Ramada • Grub Street, Barnsley

Coral may not be the only company about to lose a few hotels. United States-based Ramada, the world's third biggest hotel group, has decided that the United Kingdom is ripe for pickings and next week the company's international president, Erwin Rieck, will be flying in with an acquisitive eye.

Officially, Rieck will be here to monitor progress on Ramada's first property in the country, a spanking new one, to be built in that jewel of Berkshire, Reading.

Word within the increasingly active hotel world is that the man has a cheque book in his back pocket and is looking hard at buying existing properties.

Despite the fall in visitors to Britain, this has been an active year in the hotel market. In July, EMI sold its hotel division to Thistle, the hotel chain of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries.

Another group which has been quietly building up a large hotel empire is Ladbroke's, which, like Coral, ran into problems with its casino operations. Ramada plainly feel it is time to expand. In addition to sunny Reading, the company has also just signed contracts for properties in Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Poor old British Airways. The ante airline teamed up with the Institute of Directors yesterday to announce a joint award to boost the standing of British salesmen.

Messages of encouragement from the Prime Minister and John Nott, the Secretary of State for Trade, were read out to herald the prize to be awarded to the country's most enterprising salesman.

"For far too long our salesmen and women have been underrated by the community and the butt of undeserved jokes," Gerry Drepper, BA's director of commercial operations, opined quite rightly.

Unfortunately for BA just as it was announcing the scheme the magazine *Business Traveller* came out with details of a poll of its readers. The result: BA is voted the world's worst airline.

*Business Traveller's* assistant editor Frank Barrett denies the magazine has an obsession about knocking BA. "If we get a good letter about BA we print it. But we don't get that many."

The poll was conducted among 500 (mostly British) travellers.

The TUC conference cannot be allowed to pass without an anecdote from a meeting of the Campaign for Press Freedom which wheeled out its case before assembled trade unionists at Brighton's Metropole Hotel.

The campaign's chief speaker was the man who seems to have ascended to the role of working-class superstar during the conference, Arthur Scargill.

He talked passionately about how the trade union movement had to see as its ultimate aim the "common ownership of the means of production." That is nationalization of the newspaper and broadcasting industry to you and me.

One ambition which could be achieved earlier, said Scargill, was the creation of a daily national newspaper of the left which would put over "our" viewpoint.

But whose viewpoint would that be? Scargill shared the platform with the radical feminist journalist Anna Coote, who listened in silence as he outlined his demands that this new daily must be a popular read, not something for the (imagine a snarl here) "intellectuals."

For Scargill, this will no

doubt mean the inclusion of photographs of bare-breasted women. These are already featured prominently in his own working class organ, the *Yorkshire Miner*, with his full approval.

Coote is known to feel in the strongest possible way—and I, for one, agree with her—that if you need to print scurrilous pieces about the fishery industry, readership your editorial policy is pretty near rock bottom anyway.

"We have agreed not to discuss this here," Coote said demurely when questioned about this conflict of values.

The means of propaganda, sorry, the newspaper which Scargill is proposing, would be sent to all those trade unionists who choose to have the price of it added to their union subs.

At last, news of Sir Monty Finniston. The former chairman of British Steel and progenitor of the report on engineering is to chair the panel of judges for the Prince of Wales Award for Industrial Innovation and Production.

The BBC's *Tomorrow's World* programme will monitor the entrants—be they school sixth forms or small companies—during the two-year competition.

**Wallchart**

HOW RIDICULOUS! WE HAD A GROUP OF FOREIGN BUYERS OVER YESTERDAY...

...TO NEGOTIATE AN ORDER THAT COULD BE WORTH THOUSANDS TO US...

...AND NOT ONE OF THEM COULD SPEAK ANY ENGLISH!

ELYN WALL

## Highlights from the Benn Annual Report

- 1980 is not only the centenary year of the business but also of its first journal, the *Cabinet Maker*.
- The journals, which are the mainstay of the business, showed healthy increases in revenue over the previous year. Group turnover increased by 25 per cent.
- Profits reflect the impact of a surge in cost inflation and continuing difficulties in the book publishing trade.
- Benefit from lower taxation is due to the release of stock appreciation relief.
- In Ernest Benn, the book company, a determined drive is being undertaken to make a scaled down operation profitable.
- Tolley tax and law reference publications continue profitable and new titles include reference guides to Capital Transfer Tax and the Companies Act 1980.
- The purchase of Farm Holiday Guides Limited opens a new door into the field of leisure publishing.

Year ended 30 June	1980	1979
Turnover	17,405	14,706
Profit	1,041	1,125
Taxation	377	516
Profit after taxation	664	617
Preference dividends	84	61
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	580	556
Ordinary dividends	228	201
Profit retained	352	355

Benn Brothers Limited is the parent company of a Group publishing specialised information for business, the professions and leisure interests. The annual report is available from the Secretary, Benn Brothers Limited, 27 New Street Square, London EC4A 3DA.





# PHOENIX

ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

## Interim Statement

### ESTIMATED RESULTS TO 30th JUNE 1980

The following are the estimated and unaudited results of the Phoenix group of companies for the six months ended 30th June 1980 with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1979 and actual results for the full year 1979. Interim figures cannot be taken as a reliable guide to results for the full year.

	6 months to 30.6.80	6 months to 30.6.79	Year 1979
Net premiums written: General (fire, accident, marine and aviation)	193.6	180.6	355.9
Investment income	24.7	21.8	45.3
Underwriting results:			
General	-9.2	-3.0	-14.1
Long-term	2.3	1.0	3.1
Less expenses not charged to other accounts	17.8	14.8	34.3
Profit before taxation	16.9	14.0	32.1
Less: Taxation	5.4	4.7	11.4
Minority interests	2.0	1.1	2.3
Net profit	9.5	8.2	18.4
Earnings per share	15.7p	13.6p	30.4p

Notes: US dollar transactions are converted at the rate of \$2.36 for the 6 months to 30th June 1980 (\$2.19 for the 6 months 1979 and \$2.22 for the year 1979).

The long-term result is one half of the estimated profit relating to the current year. (For the corresponding period of 1979 - one half of the previous year's actual).

After adjustment for currency fluctuations, the increases in general premium and investment income were respectively 13% and 21% (7% and 13% unadjusted).

In the United States the general business underwriting result is a loss of £2.5 million (1979 £1.1 million) - operating ratio 108.1 (101.9).

In the United Kingdom, good premium growth generally was accompanied by an improvement in the commercial fire, consequential loss and private motor accounts, all of which were in profit in the second quarter. Household business, where the full effect of recent rate increases still has to be felt, showed a further loss and, with a deterioration in the Republic of Ireland, the loss for the half year on the home fire and accident account as a whole was £4.4 million (1979 £3.4 million).

Europe has maintained the improvement evident earlier in the year and the second quarter has brought a better result from Canada. Underwriting conditions in Australia remain difficult but, elsewhere overseas, profits were earned in most areas.

### NEW LONG-TERM BUSINESS

	6 months to 30.6.80	6 months to 30.6.79	Year 1979
Sums assured	£m	£m	£m
Annuitants per annum	1,281.9	908.4	2,008.4
Annual premiums	13.8	9.0	20.9
Single premiums	10.7	7.6	17.5
	11.9	13.4	26.9

### DIVIDEND

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 8.6p (1979 5.5p) per share which will be paid on 2nd January 1981 to members on the register at the close of business on 21st November 1980. The cost of the dividend is £3.9 million (1979 £3.5 million).

3rd September 1980

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Stock markets

## Equities buoyant as gilts continue to surge

An air of optimism returned to the market yesterday, pushing prices higher as dealers discussed the rumours of a cut in M.L.R. after the banking figures next week.

Gilts again surged ahead, bolstered by further overseas buying and the continued strength of sterling which closed at \$2.4158. Jobbers reported active two-way trade across the list with most prices closing at the top. Most City experts believe that the banking figures are likely to be brushed aside next week but no one was prepared to predict the timing of a leading rate cut.

In loans turnover was described as high with rises of between £1 and £1 while at the shorter end prices closed slightly off the top with gains of £1.

In equities, selective buying continued to provide volatile conditions with electrical and oil shares proving popular. Hopes of moderation in future wage claims also improved sentiment along with signs that the public sector borrowing requirement was falling, to the levels of the 1960s.

The overnight improvement on Wall Street was another contributory factor to the rally although dealers will be happier when turnover picks up.

The FT index took all this on board yesterday, going from strength to strength and closing at the top with a rise of 7.1 to 489.8.

Leading industrial shares had another thin time with most remaining bogged down in the recession. Jobbers survived to find the current level for dealing but without much success.

ICI advanced 6p to 354p along with Glaxo at 240p while Unilever at 502p and BAT at 280p put on 5p apiece. Rises of 2p were witnessed in Dunlop at 76p and Becham at 149p.

Turner & Newall rose 3p to 108p ahead of figures next week. But Pilkington slipped 2p to 236p on fears of a first half profits setback.

On the bid front Higgs & Hill eased 1p to 83p after indications from BICC, up 4p at 137p, that it was prepared to bid 110p a share on certain conditions. Elsewhere, Coral Leisure held firm at 91p following terms from Grand Met earlier in the week. Grand Met recovered 2p to 150p.

With eight factory closures under its belt and no sign of an end to the recession, shares of Courtaulds at a new low are starting to look cheap. Yesterday's speculators picked up 500,000 shares at 62p with further activity in the open market ahead of the figures in November. Speculators are gambling on the dividend being maintained despite the troubles.

In the event, leisure shares came under the spotlight with MAM's jumping 5p to 157p. Warner Holidays 3p to 57p. Horizon Travel 11p to 291p and Associated Leisure 1p to 109p. Speculative attention was also directed to shares of E. Gold, up 5p to 30p, following Mr

Ian Wasserman's increased share stake.

Favourable comment lifted Manchester Ship Canal 20p to 203p with Millers Docks expanding 4p to 130p in sympathy before closing unchanged at 126p. Haynes Publishing slipped another 2p to 131p as investors tried to decide by how much the group will miss its profits forecast.

Among companies reporting, Black & Edgington fell 5p to 28p with Weir Group losing 31p to 25p after both had reported an interim loss and passed their dividends. However, IJ Dewhurst rose 5p to 55p boosted by its 17 per cent profits expansion. Interim figures from Church & Co were judged below expectations and the shares eased 2p to 158p.

Diploma Investments continued to suffer from its profits warning earlier in the week, falling 17p to 503p while Whitworth Electric expanded a further 8p to 43p after its recent trading news.

Shares of NCI improved 21p to 62p ahead of good profits and a bullish statement expected today and certain rose 6p to 185p for a similar reason.

The lucrative missile defence contract awarded yesterday saw Rascal climb 5p to 305p and

GEC 10p to 498p. Hopes persist of another big NATO contract soon.

Elsewhere Ferranti advanced 14p to 426p with United Scientific adding 13p to 326p and Bowthorpe 5p to 146p in engineering. Hawker Siddeley put on 8p to 120p and Westland firmed 5p to 122p with defence contracts also in mind.

After hours' activity saw Sovereign Oil jump 20p to 295p yesterday following Robert R. sources' decision to sell its 5.6 per cent stake in the Brasfield. Observers quickly calculated that Sovereign's stake of 4 per cent works out at £3 a share.

Food shares proved popular with strong buying adding 10p to Associated Dairies at 228p, 18p to J. Sainsbury at 489p and 8p to J. Bibby at 244p. But fears of a beer price war clipped 5p from Bass at 231p and 3p from Whitbread at 154p.

In oil prices maintained their upward trend helped by thin conditions and selective buying. BP reporting today rose 4p to 334p. Shell was up 2p to 410p. Ultramar 6p to 336p and Lamsco 8p to 672p. Bunnell, a strong market of size, added 2p to 189p, while Tricentrol hardening 9p to 322p.

A crop of interim figures among insurance companies saw GRS put on 6p to 332p. Phoenix 8p to 292p and Sun Alliance 10p to 750p. This prompted rises in Commercial Union, up 3p to 155p; Royal Insurance, up 5p to 426p; and General Accident, 6p higher at 332p.

Talk of cheaper money led to the usual speculation among properties with MEPC climbing 6p to 240p along with Land Sec at 370p and Stock Conversion at 465p. Haslemere put on 4p to 348p and British Land edged ahead 1p to 50p.

The mining finance TIT raced ahead 13p to 458p as fears of a rights issue subsided, which in turn saw Cons Gold add 8p to 538p. Equity turnover on September 2 was £93.947m (11,563 bar, gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: ICI, Shell, Whitworth Electric, Turner & Newall, Rascal, Plessey, ICI, Associated Leasing, Courtaulds, Dowty, Lloyds, KCA, Kvaerner, Consolidated Gold Fields, Associated Dairies, and Gold Circle.

Traded options enjoyed another buoyant session with Grand Met on 223 contracts continuing to dominate proceedings following its bid for Coral Leisure. Total contracts reached 1,278 compared with the previous day's 1,174. Courtaulds, too, enjoyed some healthy inquiry on 266 contracts as speculators rushed to cover their positions ahead of figures in November with most banking on a maintained dividend. Traditional options were in a quiet frame, of gold, with dealers reporting only moderate interest. Double came in for both the call and the put with rates of 6p and 7p respectively. Lough also came in for the call on 10p and doubles were completed in FNAC and Town & City.

### Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profit £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Black & Edgington (1)	33.91 (35.2)	0.88 (1.12)	0.28 (0.37)	2.5 (2.5)	17/10	(7.5)
Church & Co (1)	15.21 (13.2)	0.91 (0.78)	1.06 (0.52)	0.45 (0.37)	27/11	(—)
I. J. Dewhurst (2)	10.21 (8.35)	0.81 (0.77)	1.00 (0.55)	0.60 (0.5)	(—)	(—)
King & Scott (1)	11.1 (10.1)	36.01 (4.1)	—	2.5 (2.5)	(—)	(—)
Guardian Royal (1)	—	8.52 (0.51)	—	0.24 (0.24)	13/10	2.05 (1.75)
No-Swift Invest (1)	7.03 (6.20)	16.9 (14.0)	15.7 (13.6)	5.5 (5.8)	24/10	11.45
Phoenix (1)	29.0 (26.3)	0.81 (0.77)	1.00 (0.55)	0.45 (0.37)	27/11	(—)
Richard Services (1)	29.0 (26.3)	0.81 (0.77)	1.00 (0.55)	0.45 (0.37)	27/11	(—)
Reid Grant (2)	—	0.007 (0.01)	—	15.0 (13.5)	(—)	(—)
Sun Alliance (1)	—	26.4 (15.7)	—	0.1 (0.1)	17/10	1.4
Weir Group (1)	77.2 (84.7)	2.4 (2.3)	—	0.1 (0.1)	(—)	(—)
H. Woodhead & Co (1)	6.4 (5.3)	0.1 (0.1)	—	—	(—)	(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. \* Loss.

## Serck shares jump after rumours of Rockwell sale

The share price of Serck, the Midlands-based valve group, shot up by 8p to 60p yesterday on suggestions that Rockwell International Holdings was selling its 29.7 per cent stake to one purchaser, believed to be an English company.

But Mr Jim Valleis, head of the American group's public affairs department, said: "To my knowledge we are not in any negotiations to sell the stake, nor have we sold it. Nor,

as far as I know, are we planning to sell it."

At the beginning of the year Rockwell bought 2.5m shares at 75p and later made an agreed bid for the rest of Serck at 73p, giving it a stock market value of £33m.

But in April, the American acceptance and company group was forced to call off the bid after legal intervention by the United States Department of Justice on antitrust grounds. At that time Rockwell said it intended to keep the holding

## Continued growth at Dewhurst

Against the trend for textile and clothing companies, I. J. Dewhurst, the Humber-based shirt and suit manufacturer, reported continued growth of 291,000 for the six months to mid-June an increase of 16.8 per cent.

Mr Alistair Dewhurst, the company's chairman, says that profits "growth" continues because the company has "performed its margins to preserve and even raise sales volume."

Total sales in the first half were £10.2m, against £8.85m for the same period last year.

Average margins have fallen by 0.3 per cent, but trading has only advanced from £734,880 to £819,000. But the extra pre-tax profit came from interest on the £2m the company has on deposit.

Mr Dewhurst said that the company began to build up its cash reserves two years ago when it anticipated tighter market conditions. He denied, however, that Dewhurst was cutting back investment to put, saying that the firm, which is a major supplier of shirts and suits to Marks & Spencer, had spare capacity.

The company has been "encouraged" by Government plans to introduce compulsory origin marking of clothing, he believes. The customer will show a preference for British goods. But Mr Dewhurst admits that sales were "difficult" in July and August.

Nevertheless, he hopes that providing autumn and Christmas are not too low, sales for the rest of the year should follow the pattern of the first half. On this basis, the 20 per cent increase in the gross profit margin to 0.64p should be repeated for the fiscal year.

Last year Dewhurst made pre-tax profits of £1.67m. Earnings per share during this year's first half were 4.06p compared with 3.52p.

## Nu-Swift warning for second half

By Peter Wainwright

Nu-Swift Industries, the fire extinguisher group reports a £6,000 increase to £520,000 pre-tax profits for the half-year to June 30 - but it keeps the interim dividend at 1.20p gross and warns shareholders of a "tough and testing" second six months.

So it looks as if the group will not this year break out of the box in which pre-tax profits have been between £m and £500,000 for the last 10 years.

But recession did not hit Nu-Swift with full force in the first half. Turnover actually climbed from £5.04m to £7.02m while pre-tax margins to sales only narrowed from 8.3 per cent to 7.45 per cent, the same as over 1979 as a whole.

Now recession is catching up. The year began with an order book of £m. Today it is £700,000, and still falling.

Mr Ivan Dorr, chairman, reports destocking among customers and concessionaires as they adjust trading to lower effective demand. He also says that Nu-Swift is keeping stocks and debtors under control. Liquid resources have risen and "our cash flow position has not deteriorated."

The group is bent on selling itself out of recession and the factory continues to work a 40-hour week. But not surprisingly, profits may drop in the second six months.

## Movitex bankers call in receivers

By Peter Wainwright

Movitex, the record pressing and pressing group in which brokers Stewards and Chase have taken a close interest yesterday had its shares suspended at 7p "pending clarification of the company's position."

At 7p, the stock market valuation was little more than £300,000. Movitex then announced that its bankers had been invited to appoint receivers to the two UK trading subsidiaries under the terms of their debentures.

To enable the assets to be sold in an orderly way, Mr John Wilson, chairman, also runs the industrial holding group Walter Lawrence. Yesterday's secretary said he was in Bristol playing golf. Until recently the chairman was Mr Robert Burrell of accountants Worsley, Smith & Co. He is on holiday until Monday.

Mr Paddy Flynn, the Movitex managing director, had no comment on the announcement but may make one soon.

Mr John Wilson, senior partner of Stewards and Chase, the firm which spoke for about half of the Movitex equity, said: "Naturally we are extremely disappointed and we are keeping matters under review."

Movitex was last suspended in May 1979. The shares were then 25p, with a potential bidder, Mr Burrell, then had nearly 12 per cent of the equity and Harper Investments 23 per cent.

Later that month, dealings resumed at 28p on the sale of a stake of more than 50 per cent, including that of director Mr Albert Perry, and Harper. The stake went to clients of Sheppard's, and in particular to three engineers.

There were reports that Movitex could wind up three as owner of troubled Italian Lombardini company, a plan compressed by Mr David Macdonald and Mr Christopher Worsley, with 40 per cent of the shares. The two were backed by Sheppard's in their quest to put themselves and two other men on the board.

At the annual meeting at the end of last year Mr Burrell was unseated, and Mr Redgrave and his engineers came in.

But it was too late. Recession had set in and the company's group and the February interim statement spoke of a lack of working capital. The group owed money to City Road Securities and was in dispute with the Inland Revenue.

## Walter Alexander

Industrial holding company with principal interests in coachbuilding, filtration equipment, fuel oil distribution and the motor trade; also estate and portfolio investment

### ANNUAL RESULTS

	1980	1979
Year to 31 March	£000	£000
Group Sales	38,944	33,846
Profit before Tax	3,315	2,759
Tax	898	845
Profit after Tax	2,413	2,114
Earnings per Share	18.1p	16.1p
Net Dividends per Share	4.0p	3.0p

### Points from the Chairman's statement

- Another successful year with pre-tax profits up by 20%.
- Exports rose from £3.4m to £6.3m and show an elevenfold increase in five years.
- First quarter results of current year are close to budget - another increase in annual profits anticipated.

Walter Alexander Limited shares are traded on The Over-the-Counter Market. Details of the market together with copies of the full Report and Accounts are available from H. E. Thomson & Co. at the registered office of the company, 24 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2ND. Telephone: 041-221-0396

### COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE SUEZ

Société Anonyme enregistrée en France avec un capital de Frs. 625,000,000

Registered Office: 1, Rue d'Alsace, 75008 PARIS

Financial year from January 1 to December 31

STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE FIRST TWO QUARTERS 1980

(compared with the same period 1979)

	1979	1980
Portfolio income:	Francs	Francs
1st quarter	4,034,632.70	5,792,054.81
2nd quarter	139,869,902.63	153,268,254.38
sub-total	143,904,534.73	159,060,309.19
Total amount of other income:	2,627,455.34	4,967,350.50
1st quarter	6,207,908.63	8,745,204.48
2nd quarter	—	—
sub-total	6,207,908.63	8,745,204.48
GRAND TOTAL	150,112,443.36	167,805,513.67

It should be noted that, in the case of portfolio income, companies' comparisons are only significant from the financial year.

# Merely the closing prices?

World-wide coverage of political, economic and social events, its famed unbiased reporting and its legendary attention to accuracy all combine to earn The Times its reputation as 'the newspaper of record.'

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Shoe group sees profits fall by £300,000

By Our Financial Staff  
Church & Company, the footwear manufacturer and retailer, saw profits fall by £300,000 at the interim stage in line with market expectations.

Although turnover improved by 15 per cent to £15.2m, pre-tax profit dipped from £1.2m to £880,000 in the six months to June 30, 1980, but the interim dividend has been maintained at last year's level of 3.57p gross.

The results have to be examined in the light of the exceptional surge in sales in June 1979 when the VAT increase was announced and before its implementation, said the chairman, Mr Ian Church.

He also pointed out that the interim dividend was paid in January this year instead of July in line with the Multiple Shoe Retailers' Association agreement.

On top of this the increase in interest charges has cost the group almost £200,000 more during the first half compared with last year.

Mr Church added that the level of current sales has not yet reached the final results, but so far evidence from the rest of the footwear trade indicates depressed demand.

## Black &amp; Edgington forced to sell caravan operation

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Black & Edgington, the Port Glasgow, caravan, camping, clothing and travel group, has slipped into the red at the half-way stage and is selling its caravan manufacturing operation.

With a pre-tax loss of £265,000 in the six months to June 30, 1980, compared with £1,170,000 profit for the similar 1979 period, this was on a reduced turnover of £33.9m against £35.2m.

The group has found that its manufacturing subsidiary, A-Line Caravans, which it bought in 1977 has a projected loss of £1m for the full year. The disposal will raise £1.5m cash, partly paid on completion, should help to reduce borrowings from their present level of almost £12m to under £10m. The operation is being sold to two A-Line directors.

Mr Robert Duthie, chairman of Black & Edgington, said that the decision had been made in the face of mounting losses which were the result of over-capacity in the industry. He also pointed out that the group's distribution subsidiary, Gailey, had suffered from the connection with the manufacturing side and would be sold.



Mr. Robert Duthie, chairman of Black & Edgington.

On the brighter side, the travel operation is successful and performing ahead of budget and the computer bureau is prospering. The interim dividend has been passed and the final will be considered at the year-end, although it is unlikely the group will show anything more than a small profit, though recovery is anticipated in 1981. The share price fell back 5p to 28p, the year's low.

## Pritchard up 34pc midway

By Philip Robinson  
Pritchard Services, the building maintenance, security and linen hire group which was the subject of a recent "down raid" by Mr Michael Ashcroft's Provincial Landlords, yesterday reported a 34 per cent profit jump and an interim dividend up by a quarter.

The figures for two months earlier than usual contain the promise of a 55 per cent increase in this year's total dividend.

The results are being widely viewed as a valuable defence strategy. Mr Ashcroft's private interests and Provincial, of which he is chairman, jointly hold around 20 per cent. The laundry group has had 10 per cent of its shares sold to Mr Peter Pritchard, chairman of the group, said: "There has been some speculation in our stock and we thought it appropriate to bring the figures forward. We have now achieved a record 34pc profit and a 34pc dividend increase."



Mr. Peter Pritchard, chairman of Pritchard Services.

For the six months to June 29, Pritchard's profits rose to £1.35m. Although a record for the group, it was only a little better than the preceding six months. Turnover rose by 8.6 per cent to £40m.

In the last annual report, Mr Pritchard forecast that this year would comfortably pass the record £2.5m profits achieved last time. He said yesterday: "The group's principal activities remain buoyant and we have confidence in the continued growth and demand for the services offered. In the light of the latest management accounts and projections, the board is confidently anticipating that the profits for the current year will be up in expectation."

Given similar growth in the second half, earnings could hit £3.5m by the year end in December.

The shares rose to 84p, a high for the year, before easing back a penny. The interim dividend is raised to 3.25p gross and the total dividend for the year is expected to be 5p against 3.21p last time.

Pritchard's share price has virtually trebled this year. Some of the excitement has been by the prospect of a takeover by the group's parent, Provincial, at 72p to bring its stake to just over 20 per cent.

Provincial has declared that it would consider taking the holding to within a whisker of the bid-trigger 30 per cent level if the price fell to 70p or below.



Mr. Peter Pritchard, chairman of Pritchard Services.

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## Guinness Peat to buy Gerrard International

By Michael Prest  
In a move that takes it into a new area of business, Guinness Peat, the London commodity and merchant group, is issuing shares to acquire 75 per cent of Gerrard International, a company specializing in foraging.

Payment will be over 10 years by an unusual arrangement. Full immediate entitlement to the 75 per cent equity will be obtained in return for £279,000 in cash, with the balance of £279,000 to be paid in 10 years by 10 annual payments of £27,900.

But the total consideration in Guinness shares will be equal to 60 per cent of Gerrard's average pre-tax profits for the year ending April 30, 1980, 1981 and 1982.

Forfeiting is the provision of fixed-rate medium-term financing of suppliers' credit without recourse to the supplier. As more and more countries have become credit risks which banks and government agencies are reluctant to assume, forfaiting has developed as a way of discounting export bills.

Gerrard International, which will be renamed Guinness Peat Aval Holdings, is one of London's leading dealers in this kind of finance. Its trading volume last year was £36.5m.

The company was built up by Mr Ian Guld who acquired it from Gerrard & National Discount, through his private company, Andrews.

## Cheung-Hongkong Land venture International

The Hongkong Land Company and Cheung Kong Holdings have announced a 50:50 joint venture which will be the vehicle for cooperation between the two companies for carrying out property-related business.

The new company will purchase Star House from Hongkong Land for HK\$1,000m (£82m) to be paid on deferred terms during a preliminary period of 18 months.

During the preliminary period the new company will also be offered an opportunity to take an initial deposit of HK\$200m will be paid to Hongkong Land by the joint venture company for Star House and during the initial 18 months rental income from Star House will continue to be received by Hongkong Land.

Although the new company Hongkong Land will retain a 50 per cent interest in Star House while receiving the benefit of 25 per cent of those new Cheung Kong developments which are contributed to the joint company during the next 18 months.

The company will be formed with an initial issued capital of HK\$100m with additional working capital of HK\$50m to be contributed equally by each of the two partners as and when required.

## French agency plans bond

Caisse Francaise des Matieres Premieres, the French state commodity stockpile agency, plans a 500m franc (£50.8m) 10-year domestic bond with a 14 per cent coupon, bond market sources in Paris said.

The bond, guaranteed by the state, is a bullet issue and is being managed by Societe Generale.

The Caisse was set up in 1975 in bulk of stocks of raw materials essential to French industry, to be used in the event of serious supply difficulties.

The agency then bought non-ferrous metals worth 270m francs, and there are now estimated to be worth about 323m francs.

## Brae stake for Svenska

Svenska Petroleum Exploration, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Swedish state oil company, says it has reached a preliminary agreement to acquire 70 per cent of Kaiser Resources' interests in United Kingdom production licences P106, P222 and P313.

The Brae field is located in these licences, which have the right to search for and produce hydrocarbons in blocks 16, 15, 3 and 16, 7 in the United Kingdom sector of the North Sea, Svenska said.

The company's share of the financing of the South Brae field is about £250m (£145m), a spokesman said.

Oil industry sources noted that the deal is unique in terms of the Swedish state oil company purchasing an interest in a production licence abroad.

The South Brae field holds between 20m and 30m barrels of recoverable oil, industry sources said.

Production of the field is expected to start in 1983 and probably will reach a plateau of 100,000 barrels a day.

Posidon profits soar  
Net profits of Posidon rose by 32 per cent from £42m to £55m in the six months to June 30, the company said yesterday in Adelaide.

Posidon said the rise followed higher oil prices, which in turn boosted earnings for Western Australian oil miner company, Posidon Ltd, which in which Posidon has a 47 per cent interest.

Pernis 50pc higher  
Furness Petroleum's Pernis-Etched group profits rose by 50 per cent to 147.4m ringgit in the year to January 31 from 95.2m in the previous year, the company said yesterday in Kuala Lumpur.

Pernis holds a 71.5 per cent stake in Malaysia's Minam Corporation.

Pernis said expansion would be selective and confined to areas where the Malaysian economy of sectors that are expected to grow rapidly are of importance in the years ahead, such as manufacturing and construction.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	16%
Barclays	16%
BCCI	16%
Consolidated	16%
C. Hoare & Co.	16%
Clydesdale	16%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	16%
Nat Westminster	16%
Royal Bank	16%
TSB	16%
Williams and Glyn's	15%

## M. J. H. Nightingale &amp; Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC4A 3ES Telephone 01-621 1212

## The Over-the-Counter Market

99	52	Airspring Group	52	1	67	12.9	+3
30	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	21	1	14	6.2	+3
170	82	Bardon Hill	170	1	97	5.7	+6
100	74	County Cars Peak	74	1	153	20.7	+7
101	63	Deborahs Ord	63	1	79	6.3	+3
125	88	Frank Bessell	88	1	110	16.4	+3
109	67	Frederick Parkes	67	1	165	18.7	+3
156	88	George Blair	88	1	60	7.3	+3
84	45	Jackson Group	45	1	79	6.8	+7
153	103	James Burroughs	103	1	313	30.1	+5
305	242	Robert Jenkins	242	1	313	30.1	+5
232	175	Torley Limited	220	1	121	16.4	+3
34	10	Twinkl Ord	123	1	150	17.6	+7
90	23	Twinkl -5% -HLS	85	1	30	6.5	+7
100	42	Water Alexander	100	1	87	5.7	+7
245	136	W. S. Yates	245	1	121	4.9	+4

\*Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

## Syltore to raise £972,000 by issue

Equity Capital for Industry is to take a stake in the preference capital of the Bradford-based Syltore group, which covers type system supply and wholesale electrical distribution.

Syltore has entered into an agreement with ECI under which subject to shareholders' approval Syltore will issue one million 5p per cent convertible cumulative £1 preference shares at par to ECI to raise about £972,000 net. They will be convertible between 1983 and 1990 at the rate of 100 ordinary shares for every 205 preference shares. Shares not converted will be redeemable at par on March 31, 1993.

While the issue will reduce gearing in the short term, its purpose is to further broaden the capital base for continued expansion. In particular, the board envisages expanding UK capacity at Drum Engineering.

shares will raise its issued capital by £13m nominal (about £620,000).

Electra invests in Oppenheimer offshoot  
Electra Investment Trust has invested 50m (about £2.4m) in a security issued by the Bahia Mar Hotel and Yachting Center. This investment will enable Electra to a fixed interest return plus a residual to participate in profits and gains derived from the Bahia Mar operation.

The Bahia Mar complex is situated in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and comprises a 300-room hotel, restaurant and marina. The parent company of the Bahia Mar Hotel and Yachting Center was recently acquired by a subsidiary of Oppenheimer & Company.

Woodward fighting in reduced market  
Turnover at half-year to March 31 at H. Woodward and Son was £6.4m (£5.3m). Pre-tax profit was £196,300 (£184,300). Interest £73,356 (£52,577), tax £102,100 (£81,859). Interim dividend is 0.714p gross (same).

Management accounts in the second half are showing a reduction in turnover and a fall in profitability caused by the depressed economic climate. However, every effort is being made by all departments to retain the company's share of a reduced market.

Dutch takeover for Schlesinger  
NV Slavenburg's Bank has agreed to take over Schlesinger, a private United Kingdom bank, subject to British Treasury approval.

The transaction will take place partly in cash and partly through issue of Slavenburg's shares.

Slavenburg's gave no price details but said the share issue and further share placements with institutional investors at around the Bourse price for the

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## Zimbabwe eases restrictions

From Salisbury  
Both foreign and domestic investment in new mines will be encouraged by the government of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe said at this week's international conference on Zimbabwe's economic resources. Under the new rules, foreign venture capital invested from July 1 can be repatriated after two years.

In welcoming foreign investors, Mr Mugabe said a new investment policy was being worked out and that the principle of remitting dividends and other funds "within the parameters of constraints imposed on us" - that is, by the balance of payments situation - would be permitted.

He also foreshadowed foreign government joint ventures. Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, the Mining Minister, said this our firm, stating that Zimbabweans would "participate on an increasing basis in the management of our mineral resources."

Mechanisms for local participation already exist through the country's lively stock exchange, but in addition there will be government participation in new mines, in which foreigners invest. At present remittance of profits and dividends are limited to 50 per cent after tax, but the Minister of Mines said that "It is my government's intention to allow free remittability when the foreign exchange situation has improved."

Foreign capital invested from July 1 can be repatriated after two years if dividends already remitted during that time and any capital profits are deducted.

Amounts so deducted can be invested in state bonds, which may be repatriated over six years. Further relaxation will be made when "conditions so allow", Mr Nyagumbo said.

He added that "foreign investment will also be encouraged in existing mining enterprises where an injection of additional capital together with technology will mean an increase in productivity."

Mining  
However, no special or preferential taxation, exchange control or import control benefits should be expected as a condition for joint government or local capital-foreign investment ventures. At the same time he repeated that the government intends to do all in its power to ensure "Zimbabwe will provide a safe and secure haven for future investors."

Mr David Philp, Rand Consolidated Mines managing director, who addressed the conference on investment in developing countries, said foreign investors should not request too many privileges or security. Foreign capital had to accommodate the needs of governments of developing nations which had to be answerable to their own people, he said.

"It is difficult to understand why all the wealth from minerals, particularly from our part of the world, should go to the developed countries with

little to show as a benefit in our countries. . . . The investor must rethink his policies and accept the aspirations of developing countries."

He pointed out that since the capital restructuring of companies from private to state ownership relatively few funds had been diverted into exploration.

"It is estimated that in 1975 the total cost of exploration worldwide was approximately \$1,000m, a figure which had probably now doubled," he said. But funds for exploration are not readily available to developing countries since they are "looked upon as a high risk venture". In recent years new capital has gone mainly to Australia, South Africa, Canada and the United States.

Based on recoverable minerals per acre, Zimbabwe enjoys some of the best prospects for mining in the world. Between 1964 and 1979, the value of mining output increased from \$53.5m (Rhodesian) to £215m (£210m). Eighty-five per cent of the value of output is derived from gold, asbestos, nickel, copper, coal and chrome ore. Gold is the premier mineral mined and the highest single earner of foreign exchange.

There are some 280 gold mine locations, 250 in small workings. In 1979 gold exports were worth \$47.6m. Other minerals or semi-precious raw materials were worth \$130m. Cobalt is a relatively new addition. In 1979, 204 tonnes worth \$5.2m were produced as a by-product of copper and nickel production.

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Ruth Weiss

## Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

## Interim Statement

The Directors of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Limited announce that an interim dividend in respect of the year 1980 will be paid on the 6th January, 1981, of 6.0p per share (1979, 5.0p per share) which, with the tax credit available to eligible shareholders, is equivalent to 8.57p per share (1979, 7.11p per share). This dividend will be paid to holders of ordinary shares whose names appear on the register on the 21st November, 1980.

The increase in the interim dividend is in accordance with the previous announcement in the Chairman's annual statement.

The unaudited results for the first half-year are:-

	First 6 Months 1980	First 6 Months 1979	Year 1979
Premiums Written			
Fire, Accident and Marine	388.4	344.5	660.7
Investment Income	45.9	40.9	90.3
Less: Interest paid	4.5	3.7	7.9
Profits			
Long-term	3.7	3.0	7.0
Short-term (Loss)	(9.1)	(8.8)	(13.6)
Profit before taxation	36.0	31.4	75.8
Less taxation and minorities	15.7	15.0	34.8
Profit after taxation	20.3	16.4	41.0
Preference Dividend	0.1	0.1	0.2
Ordinary - Interim Dividend	7.5	6.8	17.0
	7.6	6.4	17.2

	First 6 Months 1980		First 6 Months 1979		Year 1979	
Territorial Results	Investment Income £m	Underwriting £m	Investment Income £m	Underwriting £m	Investment Income £m	Underwriting £m
Australia	1.7	(0.8)	1.7	0.1	4.7	(0.1)
Canada	2.6	(1.0)	2.1	0.6	4.5	(1.8)
Germany	7.1	(3.2)	6.8	(3.3)	14.1	(5.4)
U.S.A.	2.5	1.3	1.4	—	3.1	0.7
U.K. (including Marine)	17.2	(2.6)	16.1	(4.3)	35.6	—
Miscellaneous (including Republic of Ireland)	10.3	(2.8)	9.1	(1.9)	20.1	(6.9)
	41.4	(9.1)	37.3	(8.5)	82.4	(13.5)

	First 6 Months 1980	First 6 Months 1979	Year 1979
Exchange Rates			
Australia	2.04	1.96	2.01
Canada	2.71	2.56	2.53
Germany	4.16	4.03	5.53
U.S.A.	2.35	2.19	2.22
Life New Business			
New Sums Assured	1,546.4	1,378.2	2,874.8
New Annuities per annum	36.2	30.0	78.4
New Annual Premiums	16.5	16.0	35.0
New Single Premiums	10.0	10.6	19.9

Application of exchange rates has depressed premium income by approximately £11m, investment income by £3.8m and increased the short-term underwriting loss by £0.3m.

Investment income and Life profits have risen satisfactorily but underwriting conditions remain difficult. The improvement in the United Kingdom was held back by a substantial marine loss of £1.8m. As expected our results deteriorated in Australia and Canada whilst Germany was unable to effect any material improvement. Our business in the United States of America, including that of Midwestern for the first time, also encountered keen competition and the underwriting profit achieved there is gratifying. Good results were reported by Brazil, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Portugal and Thailand. There was a small profit in Holland and our loss in France was halved.

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Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance

Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LR



## Discount market

**Uranium supplies still sufficient**

Uranium supplies should be sufficient to meet demand to 1990, a senior economist of Pechniney Uzgine Kuhlmann (PMUK) says.

At the 1985 London Uranium Symposium in London yesterday.

Speaking in a personal capacity, he said this assessment reached last year, by M. Pierre Erkes, general manager of Synatom SA, is still valid.

On Uranium levels and the existing reserves, he said, "a level of 100,000 tonnes should last up to 1990, or even 1995, no shortage should occur."

"The risk is that the recent decline in the uranium spot price, should it continue, could lead a greater number of producing companies to a reduction in uranium exploration activity," he warned.

"The uranium consumers are particularly sensitive to this possibility. Given the 30-year working life of their reactors, they need to be assured of long term supplies."

He said up to 1985, despite several cancellations of enrichment contracts, "the needs derived from enrichment are still less than reactor needs."

But, he said, production up to 1990, in uranium extraction and under construction will exceed uranium needs whatever they are derived from, —Reuter.

100

## **Money Market Rates**

Bank of Montreal Minimum Lending Rate 10%  
 " Law charged 7-8%  
 Clearing Bank's Base Rate 10%  
 Discount Mail Limited  
 Overnight: 16% Low 15%  
 Week Fixed: 15%-15%

147

**Recent Issues**

55

Yield					
High Bid	Low Offer	Trust		Nat. Offer	Yield
120 7/8	101 1/8	High Income	289.6	115.6	10.04
112 1/2	94 1/8	Un Assured	297.4	101.1	10.06
174 1/8	122 1/4	Japan & Asia Inc	174.4	148.1	1.00

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715¢ d10r  
 54¢ d10r

	1¢ cental rates	current actual	1¢ change from central rate	1¢ change adjusted	direct-cost limit plus minus
French franc	56.33	46.25	2.00	0.4	51
British pound	7.2625	6.2500	1.00	0.2	54
German Deutsch	3.36	2.48	0.88	0.4	52

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1. 100-100000

1479.00				1479.00			
High	Low	Offer	Yield	High	Low	Offer	Yield
2.4	12.5	Prudential	32	12	10.5	12.7	
2.5	12.5	MetLife	32	12	10.5	12.7	
2.6	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
2.7	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
2.8	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
2.9	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.0	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.1	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.2	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.3	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.4	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.5	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.6	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.7	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.8	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
3.9	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.0	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.1	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.2	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.3	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.4	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.5	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.6	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.7	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.8	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
4.9	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.0	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.1	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.2	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.3	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.4	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.5	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.6	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.7	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.8	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
5.9	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
6.0	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
6.1	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
6.2	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
6.3	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
6.4	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
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7.0	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
7.1	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12	10.5	12.7	
7.2	12.5	Gen'l. Inv. & Life	32	12			

## Allied Co.

\$5,290,000 shares. Today's volume was the highest since August 22 when 53,216,000 shares were traded.

Transport issues did especially well today with the Dow-Jones transportation average closing at 329.15, up 4.33 after rising 4.71 on Tuesday.

Analysts said that easing of

Bank of  
Federal  
Bethlehem  
Boeing  
Boys Car  
Gerdien  
Borg-War  
Steel M  
Barrington  
Burlington  
Burrush  
Cambridge

SO : Caterpillar  
Central S

**US commodities**

SILVER: Futures ended between eight- and 10 cents lower, reflecting a sharp drop in demand from Japan. The market dipped eight cents to \$16.89 1/2 per ounce after fluctuating in a moderate one-cent range. Floor traders said silver will continue to hold well above its current level in a 50 range over several months. They sold silver

Commodity  
Cornish  
Cocoa  
Cane E.C.  
Cash Food  
Cash Power  
Continent  
Control D.  
Cotton  
Crude Oil  
Crude Indus.  
Crane  
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Crowns Zel  
Dairy

Delta Air  
Detroit  
Disney

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Product Features: The

Funds		JPMORG	
Law	Offer Yield	Just	Offer Tr
Local and General (100) Bonded Ltd.	11.5%	6	Great St. Helen
104.4 Ayr & Dunf.	11.5%	12.5%	12.5%
108.1 De Accum	11.5%	12.5%	12.5%

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## Stock Exchange Prices

# Gilts forge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept. 1. Dealings End, Sept. 12; Contango Day, Sept. 15. Settlement Day, Sept. 22  
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**City Offices**  
**Hampton & Sons**

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£,000-£5,000 and bonus. Covent  
Garden Appis. 55 Fleet St. EC4.  
1-353 76/6.



## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: The Adhocracy Centre. 7.05 The Paris Fanthorn. 7.30 Computer: Future Developments. Closes at 7.55.

1.30 pm Mr Men: Cartoon characters for the very young.

1.45 News. Closes at 2.00.

4.15 Play School: First show on BBC 2 at 11.00. 4.40 The All New Poppy Show: A repeat showing of some of the popular children's cartoons. 5.00 John Craven's Newsround: 5.10 Young Explorers: Helen Oakes talks to scientists, children living in Hong Kong to find out what they like most of all their father's posting and how they spend their leisure time. 5.35 Paddington: Michael Morden narrates. The Picnic on the River.

5.40 News read by Kenneth Kendall. 5.50 Nationwide: Inclusion in tonight's offering is a new weekly series entitled Grass Roots. This innovation will give regional presenters the opportunity to tell viewers what the climate of opinion is in their region on matters of importance. The first guest is Mick Acott, of Look North in Newcastle.

6.55 Farnborough 50: Raymond Baxter with a preview of the famous International Air Show including the famous flying display.

7.20 Top of the Pops: Introduced by Dave Lee Travis. Dancing, live and recorded music of the most popular artists around the country. Back with a new series of dance programmes long.

8.30 Yes Minister: The first repeat of a series originally screened on BBC 2 concerning the machinations of a Civil Servant (Nigel Hawthorne) running a Government ministry despite the presence of the Minister (Paul Eddington) (see Personal Choice).

9.00 News read by John Edwards.

9.25 Mackenzie: The first of a 12-part series centred on the family and acquaintances of Robert Mackenzie, an ambitious young builder. The series will

## BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Maths Double Integral. 7.05 The Paris Fanthorn. 7.30 North Sea Case Study. Closes at 7.55.

11.00 Play School: Up, Over and Down by Martin Fisher is the story today and the programme presented by Shoshanna Gilbey and Stuart McGowan.

11.25 Trades Union Congress 1980: Live coverage of the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress. The programme is presented by Lord Sainsbury. Closes at 12.45 pm.

1.15 News: Further coverage of this afternoon's debate on the 1980 Open University: Religions of the Roman Empire. 5.15 Steps to Revolution. 5.40 Curriculum Design and Development. 6.05 The Naviads in Birmingham. 6.30 San Francisco Railway. 6.45 Network: The Lamas Fair. 6.50 Lamas Fair has been an

## THAMES

9.30 am Marc Chagall: A look at some of the work of one of the 20th century's greatest painters.

9.55 Animated Classics: Masters of the World (r). 10.40 Wild Canada: A look at the wilderness of Ontario in the summer (r). 11.30 The White Stone: Part two of the serial surrounding a beautiful white stone. 12.15 Step by Step: A new series of step-by-step guides to the world of the past. 12.30 News: Further coverage of this afternoon's debate on the 1980 Open University: Religions of the Roman Empire. 5.15 Steps to Revolution. 5.40 Curriculum Design and Development. 6.05 The Naviads in Birmingham. 6.30 San Francisco Railway. 6.45 Network: The Lamas Fair. 6.50 Lamas Fair has been an

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (STEREO), (BLACK AND WHITE), (REPEAT).

## TELEVISION

cover a 19 year period beginning in the Autumn of 1955. Jack Galloway plays Mackenzie and Karl Wilson his wife, Jean. 10.55 All About Books: Russell Harty meets the author of a new book about phobias, Joe Melville, and talks about his new book, Norman Parkinson and Thomas. Harty will discuss with him their own phobias.

11.30 Then and Now: Introduced by Patrick Moore. We visit the Meteor Crater situated in Northern Arizona, the landing site of a prehistoric meteorite. Patrick Moore, who has been described as the oldest naturalist in the world, will discuss the crater, which has been described as the oldest naturalist in the world.

11.50 News headlines.

## Regions

BBC 1 variations: Cymru, Wales; 11.30 News; 11.45 News; 11.50 News; 11.55 News; 12.00 News; 12.05 News; 12.10 News; 12.15 News; 12.20 News; 12.25 News; 12.30 News; 12.35 News; 12.40 News; 12.45 News; 12.50 News; 12.55 News; 1.00 News; 1.05 News; 1.10 News; 1.15 News; 1.20 News; 1.25 News; 1.30 News; 1.35 News; 1.40 News; 1.45 News; 1.50 News; 1.55 News; 2.00 News; 2.05 News; 2.10 News; 2.15 News; 2.20 News; 2.25 News; 2.30 News; 2.35 News; 2.40 News; 2.45 News; 2.50 News; 2.55 News; 3.00 News; 3.05 News; 3.10 News; 3.15 News; 3.20 News; 3.25 News; 3.30 News; 3.35 News; 3.40 News; 3.45 News; 3.50 News; 3.55 News; 4.00 News; 4.05 News; 4.10 News; 4.15 News; 4.20 News; 4.25 News; 4.30 News; 4.35 News; 4.40 News; 4.45 News; 4.50 News; 4.55 News; 5.00 News; 5.05 News; 5.10 News; 5.15 News; 5.20 News; 5.25 News; 5.30 News; 5.35 News; 5.40 News; 5.45 News; 5.50 News; 5.55 News; 6.00 News; 6.05 News; 6.10 News; 6.15 News; 6.20 News; 6.25 News; 6.30 News; 6.35 News; 6.40 News; 6.45 News; 6.50 News; 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